

Thatcher warning to Westland on European deals

By Philip Webster and Judith Huntley

The Prime Minister yesterday warned the Westland helicopter company of indications from European governments...

But Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave the Westland board, which favours the American bid, as opposed to the rival European offer the assurance it had sought...

Mrs Thatcher's intervention, in a letter to Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, prompted both sides in the protracted Cabinet battle over the future of the British helicopter industry...

It was clear, however, that the Westland board did not regard it in any way as an obstacle to repeating their recommendation for the American bid...

Supporters of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, were expressing delight that the letter contained the clear warning of the risks of losing European business...

Supporters of Mr Heseltine said last night that the letter exceeded their expectations. The Prime Minister had carefully steered a middle course...

Text of letters, page 2



Mr Young and Mr Hill, who were suspended for three months by the BBC.

Bangladesh stops tour by English cricketers

By John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent

The cricket world was thrown into turmoil last night when the Bangladesh part of the England B team's tour was called off at the last minute.

The players were already at Heathrow when they were told that the Bangladesh Government had refused entry to four members of the party...

The team was scheduled to play three matches in Bangladesh, the first against the full Pakistan side on Sunday...

Continued on back page, col 3

BBC suspends two over 'Rough Justice'

By David Hewson

The BBC suspended two long-standing journalists on its Rough Justice programme yesterday after criticism by a Court of Appeal judge...

The unprecedented disciplinary action against Mr Peter Hill, the series' producer since its inception four years ago...

Mr Cotton said that he had taken into account the fact that the case had raised questions of editorial accountability...

Continued on back page, col 2

Police to seek cut in drink drive limit

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Chief constables are to explore proposals for reducing the legal limit for drinking and driving by up to half the current permitted alcohol level.

The possibility of a reduction will be considered by the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers which Mr Birch chairs.

Mr Birch said the association policy stated that the answer to drinking and driving must ultimately be "to move to a situation of no drinking and driving but we realize this is a slow process and one needs a lot of public will and understanding."

Mr Birch said at first sight a cut in the level, which now stands at 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath or 80 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, raised problems for the light of social drinkers.

He said the light drinker was already genuinely trying to remain within the legal limits but a cut could serve to confuse the situation even further.

Mr Birch's committee is due to meet later this month when it will have the final results of the latest drink and driving campaign over the Christmas holiday period.

Mr Birch said provisional figures already showed that greater police activity had created an increase in positive tests and arrests.

Among those who have pressed the police to reduce the limit by half is Dr James Dunbar, deputy senior police surgeon for Tayside and an authority on driving problems.

But if Mr Birch's committee did decide to press for change they would first have to persuade other association members to support them.

Since the association's statement calling for a zero limit has never reached the statute books any halfway measure legislation would be required to alter current motoring law.

Offences rise, page 2

Tomorrow

Rough waters Michael Parkinson takes the desert island by storm. Intelligence men Allan Massie on the real spies behind their books. Under wraps Unveiling the secret formulas of modern packaging. Little and large Big time for the amateurs in the FA Cup third round.

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition £2,000 prize was won yesterday by Mr Graham Sawtell of London. Portfolio list, page 12; how to play, Information Service, back page. Tomorrow £22,000 can be won £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Holiday hotels 'unsafe'

Many hotels used by British tourists in Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Yugoslavia fall short of British safety standards and some are 'positively unsafe', the Consumers' Association said. Calling for international safety standards, it advises holidaymakers to insure against personal injury. Page 3

Prison rioters free guard

Rioting inmates at the maximum-security West Virginia Penitentiary freed two hostages but continued to hold another 14 while demanding a meeting with the governor. One of those freed was a guard with a history of heart trouble. Page 4

Debt repaid

The Nigerian chief whose two wives, 18 children and two nephews lived in a London hotel at the ratepayers' expense last November, paid back £5,520 to Westminster City Council. Page 2

Spending shift

A fifth of families' household spending goes on food, against a third 20 years ago, a survey finds. More is spent on housing and transport. Page 3

Troops arrive

The first of 550 extra regular troops arrived in Ulster to mount guard over police and army posts and the remainder of the Royal Anglians battalion will arrive by tomorrow. Page 2

Madrid meeting

Lord Carrington yesterday on his arrival in Madrid for talks on Spain's membership of Nato. Police kept anti-Nato demonstrators well away. Page 4

Debt talks

Nigeria's creditors, who are owed \$17 billion (£11.8 billion), may reopen talks on rescheduling the debts without an agreement between Nigeria and the International Monetary Fund. Page 13

Radio silenced

The Nicaraguan Government closed down the Catholic Church's official radio station after it failed to broadcast President Ortega's year-end message. Sandinistas confident, page 5

Bruno's chance

Frank Bruno, the British heavyweight boxer, will meet Jerry Coetzee, of South Africa, at Wembley in March in a bout which, if it is won by Bruno, will earn him the chance to box for the world title. Page 10

Gadaffi's threats 'not new'

By Nicholas Ashford Diplomatic Correspondent

Western officials yesterday dismissed the threat by Colonel Gadaffi of Libya to declare an "unending" war in the Mediterranean basin if Libya is attacked by the United States or Israel, describing it as typical Gadaffi rhetoric.

While ruling out the likelihood of a conventional attack by Libyan armed forces against American or Israeli targets, the officials warned that there could be an increase in Libyan-sponsored terrorism over the next few months.

Gadaffi has been saying for years that Libya is at war with Zionism and imperialism, one official said. "Therefore his latest threat is not very new."

The Libyan leader issued his threat during a press conference in Tripoli on Wednesday. He was responding to reports that the two countries were considering revenge-raids against Libya for last week's terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, which caused 16 deaths.

The sixteenth victim, a 50-year-old Greek woman, died in a Rome hospital yesterday. The American and Israeli have claimed that Libya is backing the Abu Nidal terrorist group, which is suspected of carrying out the two attacks as well as a number of other outrages.

At his press conference Colonel Gadaffi said Libya would not retaliate with limited action to an aggression against Libya, but would declare war in the region.

"If an aggression were declared against Libya, it would be the beginning of the end," he said. "It would be the beginning of an interminable war."

Western officials pointed out that although Libya had a considerable capacity to support terrorism, it had not done so.

Continued on back page, col 6

Setback for Younger £1,000m order for Navy and RAF

By Rodney Cowton and Ronald Faux

The Ministry of Defence is to place orders worth £1,000 million for torpedoes and submarines for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

It is understood that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, have approved a contract worth about £400 million with Marconi Underwater Systems.

Record order The General Electric Co has obtained the biggest British order ever won in China. It is for turbine generators worth more than £250 million for the Daya Bay pressurized water reactor nuclear power station in Guangdong Province, south China.

The contract took six years to negotiate. A French company, Framatome, is to supply the nuclear technology for the plant. Page 13

based near Portsmouth, for the main production contract for the Stingray light-weight torpedo.

In addition, as forecast in The Times on December 10, orders are to be placed for three diesel-powered Type 2400 Upholder class submarines with the Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Group. The work will be divided between Vickers at Barrow-in-Furness and Cammell Laird on Merseyside.

An order for a nuclear-powered Trafalgar-class submarine will also be placed with Vickers at the Barrow shipyard. The cost of the submarines, when fully equipped, is likely to total about £500 million.

The decision to order all three diesel-powered submarines from Vickers will come as a

great blow to Scottish shipyards, but also to Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary. Ministers decided in early December that all the submarines should be ordered from Vickers, but Mr Younger subsequently tried to ensure that one of the vessels should be ordered from one of the Clyde shipyards, Scott Lithgow or Yarrow.

Although he failed to get the decision on the submarines changed, it is thought that there is the prospect of an order for Scott Lithgow from the Government, although not from the Ministry of Defence, for a non-military vessel.

Uganda to censor news of forces

Kampala (Reuters) - Uganda yesterday imposed censorship on news about its security forces amid rebel accusations that government troops were continuing to slaughter civilians.

The Chief of the Defence Forces, Lieutenant-General Basil Okello, said a Press Security Committee would "scrutinize and approve or disapprove all news items on security forces before they are printed or broadcast."

"No news regarding security should therefore be printed or broadcast without prior consultation with and clearance of the committee."

His statement followed accusations by National Resistance Army rebels that government soldiers had killed more than 300 people since December 17.

Production leaps 22% at Austin

By David Young

Austin Rover, Britain's largest car manufacturer, increased its output by 22 per cent last year as days lost through strikes fell to a record low level.

The company's Longbridge plant, often dogged by labour disputes, achieved an even higher production record, with output up 24.5 per cent compared with 1984.

While Austin Rover production at 476,000 cars in 1985 was 22 per cent up on the 1984 total of 389,000, it was not a company record. The number of days lost through strike action was down to 0.5 per cent of working time compared with 6.3 per cent in 1984. For Austin Rover, 1985 was the most strike-free year on record.

Friendly Reagan passes his Russian screen test

From Christopher Walker Moscow

President Reagan has, with his new year message on Soviet television, captured the imagination of many ordinary Soviet citizens previously led by a relentless barrage of official propaganda to regard him as little more than a fanatical warmonger.

Quite frankly, we were amazed when we turned on the set for the 9 o'clock news and found the friendly face of President Reagan speaking out at us, speaking what sounded like a genuine message of peace.

Explained Gennady, an educated office worker in his mid-30s who lives with his wife and six children.

most Muscovites, he had, almost by habit, tuned in to the nightly news, the country's most popular television programme.

"We had seen him before during the Geneva summit, but what mattered as much this time as his appearance was the message which he gave," Gennady said. "My family noticed that despite what we have always been told, he looked friendly and really quite normal. Of course, we also noticed that he looked a lot older than Mr Gorbachev."

Speaking in central Moscow, Gennady added that many of his friends had been similarly impressed by President Reagan's message of peace, although some wondered what it would amount to in practice.

"The distrust for him was so great, that it will take more than this to get rid of it completely," Gennady said.



Both Mr Reagan's pointed reference to human rights and his claim that the Soviet Union was already researching its own missile defence system surprised Soviet viewers, who normally have little or no access to outside views about the Kremlin's activities.

As with Mr Reagan's earlier, more indirect, appearances during and after Geneva, many Muscovites were surprised by the apparent amiability of a man that they had so often been told by the official Soviet media to hate.

Pravda and Izvestia, the two main leading newspapers, had front page reports on President Reagan's broadcast and on that made by Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to US television viewers.

In an apparent attempt to keep up the momentum of goodwill, the Soviet authorities later announced a press conference on cultural exchanges with the US "and the spirit of Geneva," to be held today. In addition to senior Kremlin officials, leading figures from

the Soviet art world are due to take part, including Mr Yevgeny Yevtusheenko, the poet, and Mr Igor Moiseev, the choreographer.

WASHINGTON: Mr Gorbachev's broadcast to the American people interrupted coverage of the traditional New Year's day parades and football games (Michael Binyon writes).

While guaranteeing the Soviet leader an unusually large lunchtime audience, this provoked a number of enraged sports fans to tell television stations: "Get that Russian off the screen."

"One guy called and said: 'What's all this propaganda? I don't want to see all this. I'd rather be watching the parade,'" a station reported. Another in South Carolina had several calls of complaint.

Did alcohol ruin your New Year... again? Manor Clinics are private treatment hospitals that can quickly solve alcohol problems. We start by helping families understand drink related difficulties, and then give guidance on how to help the one in your life who has not yet asked for help. Ring today. Ring us today for further information, or to arrange for a confidential interview. If you prefer, contact your G.P. and ask him to call. At Manor Clinics we understand. Call 01-549 9861 or DIAL 100 and ask for Freephone Manor Clinics. Manor Clinics, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT12 1JA. London - Birmingham - Romsey, Hants. Medical insurance may apply. Financial arrangements available. Continued on back page, col 1

Drink and drive offences rise as police mount tougher action

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Preliminary figures for drink and driving offences over the Christmas holiday period show that, in spite of tougher police action and a publicity campaign, many drivers were still prepared to risk driving over the limit.

Yesterday Mr Roger Birch, chief constable of Sussex and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' committee on traffic policy, reported that figures available so far show a rise in the number of breath tests and arrests.

That he said, "may reflect a higher level of police activity and certainly cannot be taken to indicate the campaign has been a failure".

In the immediate period of Christmas and the new year 23 forces reported more than 6,000 breath tests of which one in five was positive. Merseyside looked to have the best record with more than half the drivers tested driving illegally.

The figures indicate that overall the police are likely to have carried out more than the 29,000 tests given last year, but not necessarily to have topped the 37,000 in 1983.

The slogan chosen for the holiday period "Think you can drink and drive? Think again" combined with police tests had made a significant impact, Mr Birch said.

But, he added: "Breath tests carried out so far leave no doubt that many motorists continue to drink and drive. A significant proportion that do so are well over the limit."

Nine forces, ranging from Manchester to Dorset, carried out 8,797 tests between December 9 and the new year which resulted in 1,921 positive tests and meant that one in four drivers was over the limit.

Provisional figures for London over the same period show nearly 11,500 tests, but less than 10 per cent were positive.

Preliminary figures for forces, not including London, between December 22 and the new year showed 6,556 tests were carried out and 21 per cent or 1,392, were positive.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, agreed with the police that it was too early to say clearly what the Christmas campaign had achieved, but she was pleased with the co-operation between police and local or national authorities.

Long-term problems for hung councils

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Conservative and Labour party leaders on hung local councils believe that the lack of overall control by one party has damaged decision-making, according to a survey published today.

Chief executives also complained to researchers, who publish their findings in today's *Local Government Chronicle* magazine, that balanced power has led since last May's elections to poor long-term planning and lack of political direction.

But Alliance councillors, who gained minority influence in many local councils at last year's elections, argued that the new administrative patterns had proved a strong force against extremism of both left and right.

Nine out of ten Conservative councillors, and 65 per cent of Labour leaders, said decisions had deteriorated. Only 9 per cent of Alliance leaders thought administration had become more difficult.

The survey, covering 40 hung councils, shows wide variety in ways of tackling the problem of a balance of power. Most authorities relied on tacit agreement by a minority party to keep one of the larger parties in control.

Both Labour and Conservative said agreements were unstable, and most likely to collapse when the council is trying to agree a budget. Alliance leaders, in contrast, thought that the inability of dominant parties to push decisions quickly through committee meant that decisions were more often taken by the full council, improving councillors' democratic involvement.

● Action to recover much of the ratepayers' money lost in last year's abortive Labour rebellion has been heard by two court cases being heard this month (Hugh Clayton writes). It means that the threat of disqualification from office and surcharge for losses may hang over many councillors for the rest of the year.

District auditors decided last year to act first against rebel councillors in Lambeth and Liverpool because they delayed fixing their rates for longer than members of other authorities. A total of 81 members of the two councils have been accused of incurring losses totalling £233,000 through "wilful misconduct".

Their appeal against the auditors' decisions will begin in the High Court in mid-January and may continue to the court of Appeal and the House of Lords.

If the rebels win in court no action will be taken against other rebels. If they lose, auditors may act against Labour councillors in Sheffield, Hackney, Islington, Camden, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Greenwich.

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Mr Birch yesterday: "significant impact"

Strike spreads

The strike at Sheffield's Forgemasters escalated yesterday when the number of steelworkers in dispute doubled after men at the River Don works refused to cross a token picket line.

Heart girl dies

Debbie Hough, aged four, from Leeds, Britain's youngest girl to undergo a combined heart-and-lung transplant, has died at Harefield hospital, west London. She had the operation last October.

The politics of unemployment: 4

Freeing firms from red tape

When Mrs Margaret Thatcher met President Reagan in Washington last February she went out of her way to describe their economic discussions as "excellent". What seems to have particularly fired the Prime Minister's enthusiasm was the topic of flexibility - the relative ease with which small businesses could start up and what the President said about how small businesses have provided the bulk of more than 20 million jobs created in the US over the past two decades.

Although the process of removing red tape from small business - and easing what the Government sees as "rigidities" in the labour market, such as minimum wage legislation - was already under way before February, Mrs Thatcher's visit appears to have accelerated the process.

Unlike special measures such as the Community Programme and the Youth Training Scheme, deregulation is very much a Thatcherite policy. The most significant deregulatory step which the Government has already taken has been to reduce significantly the scope of the 26 wage councils which set rates of pay for 2.7 million workers and which the Government insists have contributed to unemployment. Young workers are being removed from their scope and the council's rights limited to fixing minimum rates of basic pay for adult workers.

In the fourth of five articles on government attempts to reduce unemployment before the next general election, Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor, looks at the Thatcher administration's efforts to remove red tape and regulations which it believes are curbing the growth of small businesses.

New businesses. Most imminent is a revision of the Use Plus Order, which was originally set up to allow land and buildings to be used for various purposes without planning permission but is now hopelessly outdated.

That will be re-vamped, in the words of the White Paper to "take account of the requirements of the typical 'high tech' firms where manufacturing, research and development, marketing and other activities may be carried on in a single building". And this year Lord Young will step up the programme by publishing a second White Paper outlining the further deregulatory plans.

On employment protection, ministers have indicated they will not change existing law further after extending to all companies the two-year qualifying period before a worker can make a claim for unfair dismissal. But Lord Young has made it clear he will press for the EEC to scrap its plans for significant increases in maternity leave.

There is a widespread view that many Americans are willing to drive thousands of miles if necessary to secure a job in another town or city. In Britain, the reluctance of workers to leave their communities is said to be compounded by a housing policy which makes it all but impossible to find accommodation. The Gordian and Scottish accents in Coventry, Corby and the Staffordshire coalfields, however, show that historically some sections of the British workforce have been willing to move, and a recent Manpower Services Commission survey of US labour statistics concluded that the American workforce may be "less geographically mobile than is often supposed".

The underlying assumption that US unemployment has fallen because there is a more flexible labour market there has also been challenged strongly in an article by Mr Len Shackleton in the Royal Bank of Scotland Review, which includes a critical look at whether wages councils have really contributed to unemployment.

Mr Shackleton summarises the claims of those in favour of abolishing the councils that up to 300,000 jobs might be created, and of opponents who suggest that abolition would have only created 7,600 jobs over five years. He favours a more neutral estimate that the registered unemployment total would have been reduced by no more than 50,000.

Ministers remain unwavering in their commitment to deregulation. The measures outlined in last year's White Paper and those that will be included in this year's may or may not be desirable in themselves but the impact on unemployment is uncertain.

Tomorrow: Where are the new jobs going to come from?



Chief Okerentugba Thompson handing over a banker's draft for £5,520 to Mr Ken Hackney of Westminster City Council's housing department yesterday

Nigerian chief repays council

The Nigerian chief whose two wives, 18 children and two nieces lived in a London hotel at the ratepayer's expense last November, repaid the £5,520 bill yesterday.

Chief Okerentugba Thompson invited the Press and television to watch him handing over a banker's draft at Westminster City Council's housing department.

The council had housed the family in a two-star hotel in Paddington after they were evicted from their Eaton Square flat, in Belgravia.

central London, by the owner, Mrs Soraya Kashoggi, but it stopped paying their bills after the family refused its offer of £5,750 in airline tickets to get home. The family rejected the tickets because they were not first class.

Chief Thompson said he had always intended to pay back the money but had been in detention in Lagos at the time of the eviction and then had difficulty in getting funds transferred from Nigeria to London.

He said: "I was taken by surprise by what happened and both shocked and embarrassed". He is planning to buy a 10-bedroom house in London so his children could complete their education but he would be returning to Lagos. "I am too big a fish for Britain's sea."

The chief also produced a receipt for £3,196 for a further three weeks' accommodation in the hotel, and said all his debts, including a £19,000 bill for school fees at Dover College, attended by his six sons, would be paid.

He added that his family bore no ill-will towards Britain.

As a third convicted Irish National Liberation Army killer, the Chief also produced a receipt for £3,196 for a further three weeks' accommodation in the hotel, and said all his debts, including a £19,000 bill for school fees at Dover College, attended by his six sons, would be paid.

Alliance calls for 'justice department'

By John Winder

The first of a series of documents which will be put before conferences of the Social Democratic and Liberal parties in the coming months to form a body of Alliance policy recommends the formation of a Department of Justice. That would bring together functions distributed among many government departments.

The document, published today, has been prepared by a four-member body from both parties. It lists seven responsibilities which it says should devolve on the new department. These are:

Administration of all legal aid, assistance and advice. Relations with the legal professions. Exercise of functions at present exercised by the Attorney General as part of the public legal system, such as power to halt criminal proceedings or to authorize actions concerning the Attorney General (retirator actions).

The Department of Justice, it is suggested, should be headed by the Lord Chancellor and Solicitor General with one or two junior ministers as under secretaries. At least one minister would sit in each House, but the document suggests that it would be preferable for the Lord Chancellor ("him or her") to sit in the Commons.

It is also proposed that provision of legal services to the Government is a separate function which should not be the concern of the Department of Justice. Many departments needed in-house lawyers and parliamentary counsel (who draft Bills) should be available to all departments on legal terms.

The appointment of judges is beyond the scope of the document but its authors say that they should be appointed neither by the Prime Minister nor by the proposed Minister of Justice.

Liberals to hold 'summit'

Liberal MPs, councillors, and prospective parliamentary candidates are to gather at a conference in Yorkshire later this month to discuss the structure of a possible Alliance government and strategy after the next general election.

The conference, to be addressed by Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, will be at Hebble Bridge, West Yorkshire, the headquarters of the Association of Liberal Councils, a principal activist powerhouse of the party.

Liberal leaders of the Alliance groups on councils where Liberals hold a balance of

power will be taking a leading part in the conference.

The discussion of structure, organization and style of an Alliance government will include a review of ministers, the role of the Civil Service and ways in which the Alliance could apply its "partnership" approach to society and the economy to the operations of government.

MPs will be drawing on the experience of councillors in negotiating with other parties in situations where they find themselves holding the balance of power.

More troops arrive to boost Northern Ireland defences

The first of 550 extra regular troops for Northern Ireland arrived yesterday to guard police and Army posts in four border counties and to safeguard rebuilding work on RUC sites.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, flew in from their permanent base at Colchester, in Essex, and the entire battalion should be in Northern Ireland by tomorrow.

The arrival coincided with release of a letter from the Prime Minister to Mr John Cusack, leader of Northern Ireland's Alliance Party, giving an assurance that the rebuilding of RUC stations destroyed or damaged by the IRA was a matter of high priority and that the IRA intimidation campaign would not be allowed to succeed.

The arrival in Ulster of Wednesday of at least one RAF CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter, flown in from RAF Odiham, Hampshire, is being taken as a sign that an Army-led reconstruction drive is underway.

Belfast. The Northern Ireland Office confirmed that Thomas Power, aged 32, from the Markets area of Belfast, who is serving a life sentence for murdering an RUC reserve constable in 1981, had begun to refuse food.

Power has joined two of the 26 men sentenced on December 18 on the evidence of Harry Kirkpatrick, the INLA multiple murderer and "supergrass", in what the hunger strikers claim will be a fast to the death to protest their innocence.

Robert Tobill, aged 26, and Gerald Stenson, aged 28, both from Belfast, will today begin a 16-day fast to protest their protest against their 12th and 15th respectively without food. The Northern Ireland Office confirmed they were still refusing food but said their medical condition did not give rise to any concern.

The Relatives for Justice support group disputed that, saying that Tobill's weight had dropped from 12st 4lb to 10st 3lb in two weeks and that he was vomiting.

Other prisoners say they will join the hunger strike at weekly intervals, one every Thursday morning; until the authorities agree to a full review of the cases of all prisoners sentenced on the uncorroborated evidence of police informers.

Mr John Hume, the Social Democrat and Labour Party leader, is to meet Relatives for Justice today to discuss the strike. The group is pressing MPs to demand a debate in the Commons, and is calling for emergency legislation to ensure there are no further convictions based on uncorroborated accomplice testimony.

As a troop transport, the Chinook can carry 44 equipped soldiers but the airlifting of troops.

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Watson shares lead after chess victory

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

William Watson, aged 23, an English international master, won in energetic style against Pia Cramling in the fourth round of the Hastings Premier chess tournament on Wednesday and came out with three points to give him a share of the lead.

In the fifth round, Greenfield, Hjararton, Petruson, and Watson are all adjourned with three points while Michalchisim won against Formanek to finish the round with three points. Federowicz adjourned against Watson after 41 moves, and seems to be winning. Conquest and Hjararton are adjourned with Hjararton a pawn up.

Fan jailed for punching policeman

A soccer hooligan who punched a policeman unconscious during the Peterborough Northampton match last October was yesterday jailed for three years by Peterborough Crown Court.

Barry Fox, aged 22, of Bluebell Avenue, Peterborough, admitted causing grievous bodily harm but denied knowing that Special Constable Peter Robinson, who was in uniform, was a policeman until after the punch was thrown.

No-smoking day on March 12

Smokers who give up the habit during the National No-Smoking Day campaign on March 12 will save at least 2,000 years of human life, according to a survey by the Health Education Council of the previous two anti-smoking days.

Mr Donald Reid, campaign chairman, said at the launch in London yesterday that 100,000 smokers, including more young men and women aged under 30, would die this year from smoking-related diseases in Britain. Of those deaths, 77,000 would be directly attributable to smoking, he added.

Hillwalkers safe after snow ordeal

Searchers and RAF mountain rescue teams, who defied severe winds and sub-zero temperatures, called off their hunt last night after Mr Robert Hughes, in his fifties and his daughter Gillian, aged 10, walked down safely from the snow-bound 3,000ft Carueddu range in Snowdonia.

The two had set off on a New Year's Day hill-walking trip.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25; Belgium 60; Canada \$20; France 100; Germany 120; Greece 80; Hong Kong 100; India 100; Italy 100; Japan 100; Korea 100; Luxembourg 100; Malaysia 100; Mexico 100; Netherlands 100; New Zealand 100; Norway 100; Portugal 100; Singapore 100; South Africa 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; Thailand 100; USA 100.

Thatcher in exchange of letters over Westland proposals

The following is the text of a letter from Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, to Mrs Margaret Thatcher:

Dear Prime Minister,

In view of the response you made to a question in the House of Commons on the 19th December that major procurement decisions are a matter for the Government as a whole, it would greatly help my Board to know if Westland would no longer be considered a European company by the Government.

This question is of fundamental importance in view of the statement in a letter from the Procurement Executive, Ministry of Defence, to Lloyds Merchant Bank dated 24th December that only by joining the so-called European consortium would Westland be in a position to take responsibility for the British share of Euro-

pean helicopter collaborative projects.

Yours sincerely,

John Cuckney

The Government would continue to support Westland's wish to participate in these projects and would resist to the best of its ability attempts by others to discriminate against Westland.

I have not dealt with the question of the possible consequences for Westland's present relationship with Sikorsky of a decision to accept the European consortium's proposals. You will no doubt have made your own assessment of these.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher.

The following is the text of a letter dated December 30, 1985, from the Prime Minister to Mr John Smith, Labour spokesman on trade and industry:

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 26 December.

I do not agree that the national interest would be served by the Government acquiring a substantial holding in the Westland company. The world helicopter market is

highly complex, international and competitive. Westland itself as a private sector company is in the best position to judge how to improve its prospects in that market. That is why the Government's policy stated by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the House on 16 December and reaffirmed by myself on 17 and 19 December has been that the company must determine its own future.

The Board of Westland have given their view that the company's future lies in association with a substantial international business. The Government's concern is that they should be allowed a genuine choice. Proposals from two separate international groups have been put to Westland and are under consideration by the company. It will be for the shareholders in Westland to decide which of these proposals to accept.

Yours sincerely,

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I do not agree that the national interest would be served by the Government acquiring a substantial holding in the Westland company. The world helicopter market is

highly complex, international and competitive. Westland itself as a private sector company is in the best position to judge how to improve its prospects in that market. That is why the Government's policy stated by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the House on 16 December and reaffirmed by myself on 17 and 19 December has been that the company must determine its own future.

The Board of Westland have given their view that the company's future lies in association with a substantial international business. The Government's concern is that they should be allowed a genuine choice. Proposals from two separate international groups have been put to Westland and are under consideration by the company. It will be for the shareholders in Westland to decide which of these proposals to accept.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher.

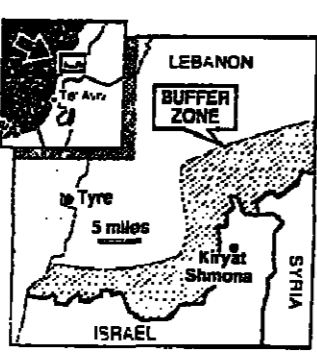
The following is the text of a letter dated December 30, 1985, from the Prime Minister to Mr John Smith, Labour spokesman on trade and industry:

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom left corner.

Israeli troops search for Shia gang after border town hit by rocket attack

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Israeli troops were last night combing southern Lebanon for a gang which fired a Katyusha rocket into the northern town of Kiryat Shmona early yesterday morning. A splinter group of the Amal Shia Muslim militia said it was responsible for the attack, the first on the border town for more than four years.



Map showing the location of Kiryat Shmona in Lebanon, near the Israeli border. The map highlights the 'BUFFER ZONE' and the 'LEBANON' and 'ISRAEL' borders.

The SLA is reported to have been involved in heavy fighting involving artillery and tank gun exchanges near the Christian strongholds of Jezzine and Falous on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. The SLA is also reported to have been shelling the outskirts of Sidon. Early on Wednesday morning Israeli troops are reported to have engaged a group near the village of Shakra in the security zone, killing one man and capturing a Katyusha, together with a rifle and ammunition.

Big rise in Lebanon deaths

Beirut (Reuters) - More than 3,600 people died violently in Lebanon in 1985, the country's eleventh year of sectarian clashes, political turmoil and foreign attacks. Security, hospital and political sources said the death toll of 3,675 was nearly 60 per cent up on the 1984 figure of 2,161.

Foreigners killed in Lebanon included US navy diver Robert Stethem, a passenger from a Trans World Airlines plane hijacked from Athens to Beirut on June 14.

Parts of the country during the year. They said Lebanese guerrillas killed 37 Israelis and 88 Israeli allies or their supporters in the south, where Israel maintains a "security zone" along its border.

Jail siege highlights cells crisis

From Trevor Fishlock New York

"You quit treating us like dogs and this wouldn't happen," a desperate man shouted to police surrounding a maximum security jail seized by prisoners.

Hu shows the flag in occupied islands

From Mary Lee, Peking

Mr Hu Yaobang, the Chinese Communist Party's General Secretary, made a new year visit to the People's Liberation Army garrison on the Paracel Islands, sparking more rumours that he is preparing to take over from Mr Deng Xiaoping as chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission in 1987.

Three letters claiming responsibility for the planned attack were also found, signed by a "Commando Llamado de Jesus Cristo" (Call of Jesus Christ Commando) and by a "Commando San Pedro los Resistentes" (St Peter Resistance Commando), in which reference was made to the "Christian struggle for the liberation of their holy place" and to the need "to clear Israel of all the Jews".

Harvard professor quits over funding by CIA

From Our Own Correspondent, New York

A department head at Harvard University is leaving his post for failing to disclose that the Central Intelligence Agency paid the research costs of a book he wrote and funded a university conference.

The CIA contract gave the agency the right to review and censor the book manuscript and said Mr Safran should not tell his publisher where the research money came from.



Indians who made asses of themselves during the new year celebrations, many in drunken brawls, are paraded by police through Delhi on donkeys, some of the offenders wearing signs warning others against bad behaviour.

Paris bomb link sought in Argentina

From Diana Geddes Paris

French counter-espionage agents are still holding three men, two Portuguese and an Egyptian, who were arrested as they were about to plant a bomb in the Jewish synagogue in the Rue Copernic, in the fashionable 16th arrondissement of Paris.

Pentagon lists Libyan targets for terror attack reprisals

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Pentagon has prepared a detailed list of principal targets in Libya that could be hit in retaliation for terrorist attacks supported by the regime of Colonel Gaddafi.

Gunmen briefed at the Hilton

Vienna (Reuters) - Three Palestinian gunmen who attacked the Vienna international airport last Friday were given their final instructions by a fourth man over breakfast in the city's Hilton Hotel.

Bonner may have heart surgery

Boston (AFP) - Mrs Yelena Bonner, aged 62, wife of the Soviet dissident, Dr Andrei Sakharov, may have to undergo heart surgery because therapy and heart pills do not appear to be working well, her family said.

Mrs Bonner suffered a heart attack in April, 1983. Two weeks ago doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital performed tests to determine whether her coronary artery was partly blocked.

Guyana deports British priest

Port of Spain - (Reuters) Guyana's left-wing Government has deported Father Patrick Connors, aged 51, a British-born Jesuit priest who defied an order to leave the country by December 31.

Toll on drivers

Bergen (Reuters) - The western Norwegian port of Bergen began charging a toll of about 40p on motorists driving into the city and municipal authorities said the levy was the first of its kind in West Europe.

Marceau better

Paris (Reuters) - The French mime Marcel Marceau, aged 62, left hospital three weeks after undergoing emergency surgery twice for a perforated stomach ulcer. He was said to have recovered well.

World service

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's state-run radio will launch an external broadcasting service to beam programmes to the outside world in the next two years "to counter South African propaganda".

Ship seized

Copenhagen (AFP) - Iran seized the Danish freighter Hornland and its crew of seven after stopping it east of the Strait of Hormuz carrying explosives which Denmark says were intended for Bridge and road work in Oman.

Statue riddle

Oso (Reuters) - The Norwegian adventurer and archaeologist, Thor Heyerdahl, who is 71, plans to return to the South Pacific this month to investigate the mystery of the Easter Island statues, hundreds of rock figures left behind by a prehistoric people.

Tourists angry

Jakarta, Indonesia (AP) - West German tourists overturned furniture at a hotel on the island of Bali. They were enraged at being turned away despite reservations, according to a newspaper report here.

Fatal crash

Wellington (AFP) - Seven unidentified people died when a light plane crashed near New Zealand's South Island town of Picton. Police said the victims were four adults and three children.

Howe visit

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks between January 11 and 15. The agenda will include the Iraq-Iran war and bilateral trade.

Suicide blast

Portland, Oregon (AP) - A man who disconnected a gas pipe to commit suicide caused an explosion that destroyed his home and damaged dozens of others, killing himself and injuring at least 10 people.



Lech and Danuta Walesa in their Gdansk apartment on New Year's Day with their five-day-old daughter. The baby, the couple's eighth child, has not yet been named.

Ship's cook smuggled ammunition

Auckland (AFP) - The cook on board the French cargo ship Ile de Lumiere, which was seized on Sunday with a load of ammunition bound for New Caledonia, confessed to the press yesterday that he had smuggled the ammunition on board.

Portuguese pledge on EEC unity

By Nicholas Ashford Diplomatic Correspondent

Portugal will participate in actively constructing a united Europe, Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese Prime Minister, said in a statement marking Portugal's formal accession to the European Community.

"I did it to make money," the cook, M. Michel Four, aged 29 and a French citizen, said to reporters here. "I am not concerned by the New Caledonian problem. I do not regret anything."

The Ile de Lumiere had been bound from Sydney to New Caledonia. New Zealand police have said privately they believe the munitions were destined for anti-independence groups in the French territory.

The statement, a copy of which was released to The Times, emphasised that Portugal intended to play a leading role in reforming Community institutions.

Police, who have charged M Four with possessing explosives, said he told them he had bought 5,000 rounds of ammunition in Sydney.

"Portugal will actively participate in the construction of Europe," the statement said. "The Portuguese Government supports the main guidelines adopted in the last European Council in Luxembourg, which will be vital for the construction of a true European union and to reinforce cohesion and solidarity among member states."

Carrington steps warily in Madrid

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, arrived in Madrid yesterday for a 48-hour visit inevitably dominated by Spain's now pressing need to obtain a referendum vote in favour of remaining in the alliance.

Implications of entry, page 6

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, arrived in Madrid yesterday for a 48-hour visit inevitably dominated by Spain's now pressing need to obtain a referendum vote in favour of remaining in the alliance.

he had been "mistaken" in his previous anti-Nato stand and had learnt from the experience of Spain's three-year-old membership of Nato that this way the country's national interests are best defended.

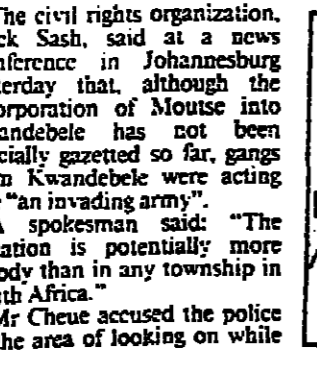
Black police killed in tribal clashes over homeland

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

The mutilated bodies of two black policemen were found yesterday in the Moutse area north of Pretoria, where violent tribal clashes have erupted over government plans to re-designate it as part of an "independent" homeland.

must come out from their homes armed to defend their people". The police said in a brief statement that the bodies of the policemen were found near their burnt-out car and that two men with bullet wounds were being detained in hospital in connection with their deaths.

The government's decision to incorporate the Moutse area into KwaNdebele seems to be at odds with recent statements by Mr P. W. Botha, the state President, of his intention to restore South Africa citizenship to millions of blacks who have lost it through the process of establishing "independent" homelands.



Map showing the location of the Moutse area in the KwaNdebele region of South Africa. The map includes labels for Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Johannesburg.

It also appears to conflict with the policy of creating homelands for different ethnic groups. Only about 40 per cent of KwaNdebele's 500,000 population is Ndebele while the 120,000 people of the moutse area belong to the Pedi tribe.

Mr Cheuse said that fewer than 10 per cent of Moutse's people were Ndebele speakers. He said the area had potential reserves of coal and asbestos, the only hospital in a large area

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom left of the page.

Sandinistas confident that decline of Contras will accelerate in 1986

From John Carlin, Managua

Nicaragua's Sandinista Government believes its Washington-backed guerrilla enemies, known as the "Contras", have lost the military initiative and are, at present, headed for defeat, a conviction shared by independent observers in Managua.

"We can state with certainty that the mercenary army has entered an irreversible process of decomposition and decline," the Defence Minister, Señor Humberto Ortega said. The decline, he predicted, will intensify during 1986.

Western observers in Nicaragua believe the very survival of the Contras, whose aim is to overthrow the Marxist-leaning Sandinista Government, depends on the US Congress approving a Reagan request for military aid, expected early this year.

The estimated 15,000 Contras - described as "freedom fighters" by President Reagan - have received more than \$70 million in support from Washington and from private conservative organizations in the United States. Yet, after four years' fighting, they have not managed to keep pace with a rapidly evolving Sandinista army, now numbering some 65,000 troops.

"The fact is," said one

Western diplomat, "that the so-called co-Somoza National Guards who lead them are woefully incompetent at conducting guerrilla operations."

Besides, the vast majority of the Contra fighters are young, poorly educated peasant men - "hillbillies", one senior diplomat called them - some of whom, as the Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa has written, have been led to believe they are "engaged in a crusade against the forces of Satan".

The Sandinista Popular Army, as it is known, has received high-quality training from Cuban advisers working in Nicaragua. The fruits of that training have been seen this year with the Army taking on, and beating, the Contras at the guerrilla game of fighting in the mountains - without defined fronts - in small, highly mobile units.

Contrary to the norms of guerrilla warfare, it is the government Army, that are suffering the worst casualties, according to official figures, the Sandinista Army killed 4,608 Contras in 1985, losing 1,143 soldiers themselves.

Señor Ortega, brother of President Daniel Ortega, said

the rebels had been reduced to despair at their failure to achieve their main objective of "liberating" territory and setting up a provisional government.

The Contras have not been able to take, much less hold, any target of political importance. As a consequence, their capacity to mobilize civilian support has been insignificant.

However, the presence of the Contras - whom President Ortega perceives as merely the ramshackle vanguard of an American-troop invasion - has obliged the Sandinistas to spend 40 per cent of the national budget on defence. The effects on the subsistence economy have been disastrous and laid the basis for a groundswell of discontent among the country's three million people - a possibility causing alarm among senior government officials.

Also worrying to the Sandinistas are reported Contra attempts to form a so-called "internal front", a base from which to launch potentially destabilizing urban attacks.

But there is no sign as yet of any Contra presence in Managua, the remarkably tranquil capital, or any other major city.

Ozal hopes to sign \$3bn Iran trade deal

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, today starts a three-day official visit to Tehran hoping to sign a multi-billion dollar trade deal and expedite a massive oil and gas pipeline project.

Two hundred officials and businessmen will accompany Mr Ozal. With a visit to Baghdad planned for later in the year, he is also expected to attempt further mediation to end the Gulf War, despite visible anger over alleged Iraqi interference with the just concluded visit to Tehran by Mr Mustafa Tinnaz Tinnaz, the Turkish State Minister for Economic Affairs.

Mr Tinnaz, who went to the Iranian capital to work out the details of this year's bilateral trade deals was stranded there for more than a day when a plane sent to fetch him was allegedly intercepted by Iraqi planes and forced to return.

After Ankara waited in vain for a guarantee of safe passage from Baghdad, the plane had to fly through Soviet air space to pick up the minister and his entourage.

Although Mr Ozal's flight was reportedly cleared by Iraq, he was to make the same detour to demonstrate his Government's displeasure over the incident.

On his return on New Year's Day, Mr Tinnaz reported agreement for the volume of two-way trade this year to be at least \$3 billion (£2 billion) and to be better balanced.



A small child joins adult mourners showing their grief at Mrs Blackburn's funeral.

20,000 mourn white activist

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

More than 20,000 blacks from all over the Eastern Cape region, one of the worst affected in 15 months of South African township unrest, poured into Port Elizabeth yesterday for the funeral of Mrs Molly Blackburn, the white civil rights activist killed in a car crash last Saturday. She was 55.

They filled the streets for more than 200 yards around St John's Methodist Church in the centre of the town.

Over loudspeakers the crowd, some members of which wore the colours of the outlawed African National Congress, heard Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and patron of the United Democratic Front, say at the inter-denominational service: "She anticipated what this country can and should be. In South Africa there are precious few white people who have gained so much credibility and earned so much respect from us."

Mrs Blackburn, a mother of seven and a provincial councillor for the official opposition Progressive Federal Party

Singapore heads for zero growth this year

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

The full scale of the economic cyclone that hit Singapore last year has been disclosed by the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, in a new year message calling for wage restraint and higher productivity.

He told the island's two and a half million people that the economy declined by 1.7 per cent in 1985, against a steady 8 per cent growth for the first part of the decade. And the official outlook for 1986 is "zero growth".

Foreign investment commitments in the republic fell by a staggering 39 per cent during the year, and more than 90,000 jobs were lost - though two-thirds of these were foreigners. Unemployment in Singapore is now above 4 per cent and will rise to 5-6 per cent when the latest wave of school leavers hits the labour market.

Singapore is not alone in experiencing economic recession, as the accompanying table shows. The boom days in South-East Asia are over for the foreseeable future.

Mr Lee laid much of the blame for his country's poor performance at the door of wage rises outstripping productivity. Inflation was only 0.5 per cent last year, yet workers enjoyed real wage increases of 2.5 per cent while improving their productivity by only 1.2 per cent. "We just cannot afford this", he insisted.

GROWTH FIGURES

Country	1984	1985	1986
		(Estimate)	(Projection)
Singapore	8	-1.7 (actual)	Zero
Malaysia	7	3.5	4
Thailand	8	4	4
Philippines	-5.5	-5	1
Indonesia	5	2-3.5	2-3

Source: Asiaweek, Far Eastern Economic Review and official.

Mrs Aquino smiles on communists

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra

Baguio, Philippines (AFP) - The presidential candidate Mrs Corason Aquino said yesterday that she would accept help from communists as she opened a well-received two-day campaign tour of President Marcos's home region.

She also said her party, the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido), would unveil a "minimum" programme of government today. She indicated that Unido would push ahead with the country's land reform programme and the immediate reorganization of the Government.

She added that she was reconsidering an earlier call for the removal of US bases in the country. She told a press conference after addressing more than 10,000 people in the central square of this northern city: "If they tell me that they will not resort to violence, I guess it's all right."

The 52-year-old widow of Mr Marcos's chief political opponent, Benigno Aquino, said she would welcome communists in her government if she unseated Mr Marcos in the special elections on February 7, provided they renounced violence, participated and won in an election.

Her remarks came as Mr Marcos accused his political opponents of forming alliances with outlawed communists and encouraging foreign intervention.

Aruba's big day marred by tragedy

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

Oranjestad, Aruba (Reuter) - Aruba's first home-rule government took office yesterday after the Caribbean island split from the other five islands of the Netherlands' Antilles federation at midnight.

A seven-man Cabinet led by the Prime Minister, Mr Henney Eaman, was sworn in by the Governor Felipe Tromp after the first sitting of Aruba's new parliament.

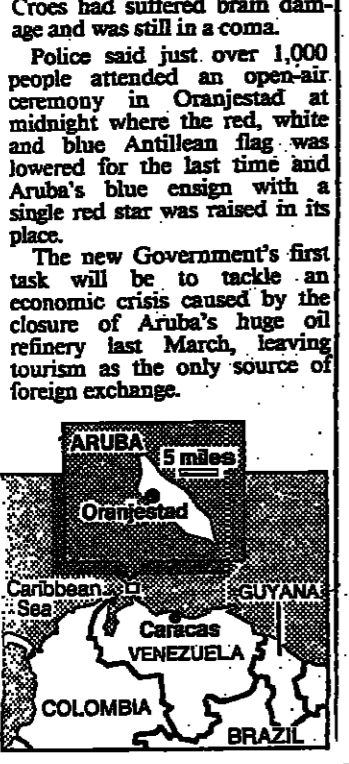
The arid island of 67,000 people off the coast of Venezuela became fully self-governing yesterday but The Hague will remain responsible for defence and foreign affairs until Aruba achieves complete independence in 1996.

Wednesday's night's ceremonies were marred when the Opposition leader, Mr Betico Croes, was seriously injured in a car crash less than three hours before midnight.

Mr Croes, aged 46, was responsible for setting Aruba on course for independence, but his centre-right People's Electoral Movement lost power to Mr Eaman's four-party coalition in elections last November. Doctors said Mr Croes had suffered brain damage and was still in a coma.

Police said just over 1,000 people attended an open-air ceremony at midnight where the red, white and blue Antillean flag was lowered for the last time and Aruba's blue ensign with a single red star was raised in its place.

The new Government's first task will be to tackle an economic crisis caused by the closure of Aruba's huge oil refinery last March, leaving tourism as the only source of foreign exchange.



Britain ready for A-test meeting

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

Three British officials are due in Canberra next week for the first formal meeting in what are expected to be lengthy and awkward negotiations on the report of the McClelland Royal Commission into British nuclear tests in Australia.

The subject has the potential to sour Anglo-Australian ties considerably.

The talks, scheduled for January 9 and 10, will concentrate on the commission's main recommendation as far as Britain is concerned - that clean-ups of contaminated test sites should be paid for by the British Government.

No agenda has been set and the meeting will be only a preliminary step. Both sides are expected to treat the talks as a sounding-board in preparation for a meeting at ministerial level later in the month.

The commission, under the presidency of Mr Justice James McClelland, found that Britain had a legal and moral responsibility to clear toxic waste left by the nuclear testing programme conducted in the outback

French Alps ski deaths bring off-piste warning

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A warning of the great danger of off-piste skiing has been issued by the French mountain rescue service after the death this week of two more skiers in avalanches in the Mont Blanc area of the Alps, bringing last year's total of avalanche deaths on the French side of the northern Alps to 27.

Most of the accidents were caused by the imprudence of off-piste skiers who, with the development of more advanced equipment and the opening of new ski lifts into the high mountains, are becoming more and more numerous, according to M Claude Lovie, director of the Centre for the Study of Snow and Avalanches at Albertville, in Savoy.

"At present the snow which fell last weekend is not adhering to the previous layer of snow," he said. "That is because of the severe frost

Canberra and Jakarta seek agreement Hawke's good-neighbour policy

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra

A confidential strategic assessment which caused Canberra acute embarrassment and chagrin when it was leaked in 1984, summarizes neatly the rationale behind Australia's current efforts to put relations with Indonesia on a better footing.

The basis of the document's reasoning was that though there is no immediate threat to Australian security, it is only prudent to consider that a danger might one day be posed by a close neighbour which is at the same time the world's fifth largest country, a vast archipelago of 13,000 islands and more than 150 million people.

Relations have ranged from bad to awkward since the Indonesian invasion of Timor a decade ago. Australian public opinion has tended to the view that Indonesia is inherently expansionist, while Jakarta believes it was let down by an Australian Government which had privately endorsed a takeover.

Many of the problems, according to both sides, stem from considerable cultural differences - between subtle Javanese circuitousness and Antipodean directness. On top of that, a democracy in which an aggressively free press plays an important role is bound to have its difficulties with a militaristic neighbour which has a variable record on human rights.

A senior Defence Department official in Canberra says: "As a nation we have always had something of a yellow-peril phobia. We used to worry about the Japanese, then it was the Chinese. In the seventies Indonesia became the big bogey."

But the Hawke Government, maintaining a trend of recent administrations to realign Australian priorities towards East Asia, and in particular China, Japan and the Asean nations, has worked at improving Indonesian relations.

And after the December visit by Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, officials here are satisfied that there is a new commitment by the Suharto administration to improving ties.

Mr Mochtar took back to Jakarta an invitation to President Suharto to pay an official visit, and while he was here said both countries were determined to concentrate on those issues on which they are in agreement rather than, as in the past, their differences.

A visit by President Suharto would be a significant step forward. The Indonesian leader, extremely cautious in any direct course of action, has previously eschewed the opportunity to visit Australia for fear of the likelihood of demonstrations.

Mr Mochtar's experience will have done the prospects of a visit no harm. The Foreign Minister encountered only two

Kidnapped Australians describe 7-month ordeal in Kabul jail

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

An Australian couple kidnapped by a border tribe in Pakistan last May are on their way home after having spent seven months incommunicado in a prison in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Dr Robert Williamson, aged 35, a hydrologist from near Melbourne, spent the last five months in solitary confinement. His wife, Miss Jennifer Lade, aged 32, was not allowed to see him for the whole time they were kept in Kabul. But she at least had some company in her cell - an Afghan woman - and a wood burning stove when the snows began.

"I was my own heating system," said Dr Williamson. "I had to spend the day wrapped in a blanket."

The couple were released to the British Embassy in Kabul on December 27 after the UN personal intervention of the Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, who twice interceded with the Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr Shah Mohammad Dost, in New York. Appeals were also made by the Australian Government to Kabul and Moscow.

"We didn't really believe we were free until we arrived in



Miss Lade and Dr Williamson telling journalists in Delhi of their days in captivity in Afghanistan after being seized by tribesmen.

Hopes rise of Afghanistan pact before next summit

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In spite of United States and Pakistani caution over the latest informal Afghan suggestions for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, there are hopes here that an historic agreement ending the six-year conflict can be reached before the autumn visit to Washington of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

Three of the four elements are virtually in place. But the key issue of the withdrawal of 118,000 Soviet troops remains the main stumbling block, with the United States and Pakistan insisting that all else depends on it. However Washington has already said it is ready to play the unusual role of guarantor of a political settlement in a country bordering the Soviet Union.

The United States has accepted the draft guarantees presented by the United Nations, and the outlines of a comprehensive settlement are now in sight. Three of the main documents have been virtually completed at the Geneva negotiations: non-interference and non-intervention; the voluntary return of Afghan refugees; and international guarantees on the neutrality of Afghanistan.

Any agreement would have an immediate impact on United States policy. As President Reagan told Mr Gorbachov in Geneva, the United States has spent over \$430 million (£299 million) since 1980 in helping Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan. United States aid to the Afghan rebels is now running at almost \$25 million a year, and covert assistance may add considerably to that sum.

American arms sales to Pakistan have been increased because of the conflict, and a real thaw in political relations with Moscow still depends on Soviet withdrawal.

An immediate cut-off of United States military aid to the rebels could effectively end the armed struggle against the Kabul Government. An American pledge of non-intervention would also make it difficult for the United States to give open support to any subsequent movement to overthrow the government.

The latest Afghan ideas have also been received coolly in Pakistan. Islamabad said yesterday it had not seen the timetable given by Mr Shah Mohammad Dost, the Afghan Foreign Minister, to the US negotiator. Mr Dost said the timetable could be discussed only if Pakistan would agree to direct negotiations with him, which Pakistan has consistently refused.

Year to remember: anniversaries of 1986

The Abdication, the opening of the first Mersey Tunnel, the destruction of the Crystal Palace and King George V's death - all in this list of memorable dates

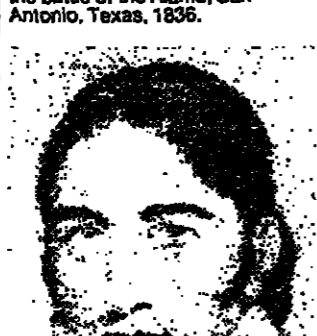
- JANUARY
2 Apsley Cherry-Garrard, polar explorer, born, Bedford, 1886.
5 Humbert Wolfe, poet, born, Milan, 1886.

- 24 Wilhelm Carl Grimm, folk-lore writer, born, Hanau, 1786. Winslow Homer, painter, born, Boston, Massachusetts, 1836.
27 Ivan Pavlov, physiologist, died, Leningrad, 1936.



18 Rudyard Kipling, writer (above), died, London, 1936.
19 James Watt, engineer, born, Greenock, 1736.

- FEBRUARY
1 John By, engineer, died, Sherrif Park, Sussex, 1836.
2 Sir Owen Seaman, editor of Punch 1905-32, died, London, 1936.



8 Louise Maria Hubbard (above), social reformer, born, St Petersburg (Leninград), 1836.
11 Sir Henry Seton Stewart, mathematician, died, Allanton, Lanarkshire, 1836.

- APRIL
1 Sir Thomas Burton, philanthropist, born, Castle Hedingham, Essex, 1786.
2 Jacob Tonson, publisher, died, Leabury, Herefordshire, 1736.



Palace drama: the end of the Crystal Palace in 1936 and (right) the end of King Edward VIII's reign, 10 days later



THE KING THE ABDICATED AND

- MAY
5 Beatrice Harraden, novelist, died, Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire, 1896.
8 Oswald Spengler, philosopher, died, Munich, 1936.

- JUNE
8 Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and founder of medical school for women, born, Alcock, Suffolk, 1836.

- JULY
2 Jacopo Sansovino, sculptor and architect, born, Florence, 1486.
4 Heinrich Kaminski, composer, born, Tiengen, Germany, 1886.

- SEPTEMBER
1836 The Pilgrimage of grace began.
3 Daniel Mendoza, pugilist, died, London, 1836.

- OCTOBER
2 Augustus Keppel, Viscount Keppel, admiral, died, London, 1788.
3 Alain-Fournier, writer, born, La Chapelle-d'Angillon, 1886.

- 11 Sir Henry Seton Stewart, mathematician, died, Allanton, Lanarkshire, 1836.
12 John Scott Haldane, physiologist, died, Oxford, 1936.

- JUNE
14 Charles-Augustin de Coulomb, physicist, born, Angouleme, 1736.
16 Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer, born, Spisbury Lincophire, 1786.

- JULY
12 Desiderius Erasmus, scholar, died, Basel, 1536.
13 Clifford Bax, playwright, born, London, 1886.

- SEPTEMBER
10 John Fall, Dean of Christ Church and Bishop of Oxford, died, 1886.
12 Desiderius Erasmus, scholar, died, Basel, 1536.

- OCTOBER
2 Augustus Keppel, Viscount Keppel, admiral, died, London, 1788.
3 Alain-Fournier, writer, born, La Chapelle-d'Angillon, 1886.

- 1 Sir Thomas Burton, philanthropist, born, Castle Hedingham, Essex, 1786.
2 Jacob Tonson, publisher, died, Leabury, Herefordshire, 1736.

- JUNE
18 George Leigh Mallory (above), mountaineer, born, Moberley, Cheshire, 1886.
20 Emmanuel-Joseph Sieves, churchman and politician, died, Paris, 1836.

- JULY
20 Emmanuel-Joseph Sieves, churchman and politician, died, Paris, 1836.
21 Daniel Douglas Home, spiritualist, died, Auteuil, 1888.

- SEPTEMBER
8 Siegfried Sassoon (above), writer, born, Weirleigh, Kent, 1886.
14 Jan Masaryk, statesman, born, Prague, 1886.

- OCTOBER
15 Alan Ramsay, poet, born, Leadhills, Lanarkshire, 1886.
16 John Clifford, Baptist minister and social reformer, born, Sawley, Derbyshire, 1836.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Nicholas Boileau, poet and critic, born, Paris, 1636.
2 Edward Colston, philanthropist, born, Bristol, 1686. BBC high-definition television service from Alexandra Palace inaugurated, 1936.

DECEMBER

- 1 Andrea Gabrieli, composer, died, Venice, 1585.
5 Constance Spry, flower arranger, born, Derby, 1888.
10 Luigi Pirandello, playwright, Nobel laureate, 1934, died, Rome, 1936.

IN THIS YEAR



1086 The Domesday Book (above) was completed.
1586 Nicholas Stone, mason and architect, born, Woodbury, Devon.

Compiled by Jack Lonsdale

Spanish business quakes as the taxman cometh



Iberian images: detail from Picasso's Guernica (left) and the Christo Rei on the bank of the Tagus, Lisbon

Spain and Portugal joined the EEC this week. Richard Wigg takes a look at the implications

The 10 nations of the EEC became the 12 nations on Wednesday, when the community welcomed two of its poorest and most backward neighbours...

"Our tariffs are to be cut back 10 per cent from March and halved over the next three years. And in the spring we've got the annual wage negotiations, at least 8 per cent on labour costs."

many small dairy farmers of Northern Spain, the elderly peasants of Galicia with their two cows who come into the small towns daily and sell their milk illegally (and unhygienically)...

is less than one-third that of Portugal's new rivals. The agriculture programme will be helped by a grant of £70 million ECUs...

SATURDAY The weekend starts here. A hotter desert island. Rose-red in Jordan. Busy bee on the heat. Interview with Sting. Portfolio £22,000 to be won. Can you always get your copy of The Times?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 839) ACROSS: 1 Dreading (6) 5 Two-tiered galley (6) 8 Near offer (1,1,1) 10 Misdread (8) 11 Conception (4) 12 Single (3,2,3) 14 Visual effect (6) 17 Brook (6) 19 Very young (1,5) 22 Deep cut (4) 24 Immoral (6) 25 Derivation (6) 26 Convent member (3) 27 Close (4,2) 28 Immerse (6) DOWN: 2 Listened to (5) 3 Luggage (7) 4 Make up (7) 5 Boish (5) 6 Recaper (5) 7 Virgin Mary statue (7) 13 Bridle mouthpiece (3) 15 Slow leakage (7) 16 Swindle (3) 17 Somebody (7) 18 Sail gear (7) 20 Communion table (5) 21 Child's nurse (5) 23 Spin (5) SOLUTION TO No 838 ACROSS: 8 In consequence 9 Aim 10 Truckload 11 Denise 13 Bravery 16 Crusade 19 Darts 22 Pretence 24 Cad 25 Esprit de corps DOWN: 1 Ribald 2 Accumen 3 Analogue 4 Bedouin 5 Hunt 6 Induce 7 Gently 12 Err 14 Audience 15 Ruff 16 Cipher 17 Unripe 18 Embolden 19 Record 21 Seizure 23 Exit

هكذا امن الاله

THE TIMES DIARY

Reluctant lensman

Aberfan doesn't know it, but it was paid a surreptitious visit by Lord Snowden...

Pass the bucks

The recent visit to America of the Prince and Princess of Wales has left the British Embassy in Washington financially embarrassed...

Second-rater

John Sparrow, former warden of All Souls, will be sorry to learn from the newly-released 1955 Cabinet papers...

Howzat?

Lady Howe, wife of Sir Geoffrey Howe, has been a good student at the London School of Economics...



It's new: a cross between Diplomacy, Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit.

Even congressional critics of the five-year \$1,000 billion US military build-up are astonished by the implications of the cuts required...

Members of Parliament are at last beginning to recognize the importance of the issue. Some 60 have responded positively to rain-forest lobbyists...

Think small: Labour's line for '86

by Richard Heller

Of all the Labour Party's self-inflicted wounds none is so fatal as its habit of thinking big...

That is especially true of unemployment, the most important issue today. Broadly speaking the British people regard mass unemployment as a natural disaster...

The state of the NHS is Labour's only consistently successful big issue because people believe it to be directly controlled by the government...

Unpleasant things are happening every day. Labour should find these things and exploit them.

We should concentrate on issues where people know that the government can make a difference - and on issues which Mrs Thatcher cannot evade.

Labour should stop trying to sell grandiose, abstract chunks of policy and instead focus on the many different issues which affect local and personal life...

Everywhere in Britain there are useful and cheerful things to be done. Let us find them, promise them - and then do them.

The author is political adviser to Gerald Kaufman, MP, Opposition spokesman on home affairs.

David Watt

Not old-fashioned - commonsense

Early in 1985, when I wrote a column attacking the government's policy in a controversial field...

Well, I suppose it happens to all of us in the end. I have not, at 53, quite reached the age when all permanent secretaries begin to look young...

A literal-minded defence is not too hard to construct. For am I not the very model of a modern communicator? I watch television...

You are hung up on all sorts of outdated, bi-coastal nations like the welfare state and consensus politics and the Robbins Report...

There are a lot of possible replies to this list of crimes, ranging from 'Well, there were actually some aspects of the welfare state I never approved of'...

But these do not really take the argument much further. We have all in fact, had to change our tunes drastically in the last 20 years...

The important question is not so much which 'old-fashioned' (i.e. unfashionable) opinions and attitudes should be thrown out as which ones still deserve to be rescued from the Thatcherite holocaust.

A full answer to this question could only emerge over many articles, but my New Year reply comes under three summary headings...

Pragmatism: One of the objects of the traditional British middle-class 'generalist' education was to instil the kind of self-confident scepticism that would enable a man to make reliable practical judgements...

Responsibility: Our class system is dying, but only a very large, very rich country can maintain stability and efficiency without some kind of elite, preferably as open as possible to talent...

Internationalism: British pragmatism has prevented us ever becoming quite so hooked on international rules as the Americans at their most moralistic...

Moreover... Miles Kington

The Bob and Mike Edline show

In the past years, I have compiled a table of the most popular first names in 1985, based on their occurrence in the headlines of The Times...

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off.

Bailey Morris on the implications of the multi-billion squeeze

Washington In a maximum security area of the Pentagon, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff are planning the unthinkable...



US armoured might in Germany: some divisions would be cut, others totally disbanded

Against their will, with the reluctant acquiescence of the president, the military chiefs are attempting to put on paper the amount and kind of programmes which will have to be cut as a result of the deficit-reduction legislation...

It is a chaotic task. Belatedly, officials are beginning to realize the consequences. By the end of his second term, Reagan may have to preside over the largest dismantling of US military power since the end of the Korean war in the early 1950s...

Under the inflexible formula of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation, whole divisions could be disbanded: important weapons systems delayed or cancelled; more than 50,000 of the 300,000 US troops defending Europe recalled...

What this means to the world at large, and to the United States specifically, is an issue now under the microscope. In the 1986 fiscal year, when only an estimated \$5.5 billion must be subtracted from the Pentagon's budget, the issue is not very grave...

By the summer, when Gorbachov is tentatively scheduled to make his first visit to the United States, administration and congressional budget officials will be deeply immersed in the divisive task of slashing domestic and defence programmes by a total estimated at more than \$50 billion.

Even congressional critics of the five-year \$1,000 billion US military build-up are astonished by the implications of the cuts required under the legislation.

Can Reagan live with this arms U-turn?

could achieve by legislative fiat what the Soviets failed to achieve at Geneva... said a top Republican aide on the Senate armed services committee...

reading the fine print. Under the procedures established by the legislation, if Congress and the administration cannot agree on overall cuts that would reduce the deficit to \$144 billion in the 1987 fiscal year...

It would preside over an orgy of programme slashing that would result in a systematic reduction of US military power. At worst this would mean not the 3 per cent growth requested by the administration but a 3 per cent cut in fiscal 1986 and up to 10 per cent in 1987.

Yet he signed the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation into law on December 12 over the strong objections of Weinberger and of James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, who served formerly as White House Chief of Staff...

Since some of the largest domestic programmes are exempted - social welfare, a portion of Medicare - the cuts will fall disproportionately hard on defence and the remaining domestic programmes...

Curb the banks, save the forests

More than 27 million acres of tropical forests are disappearing every year in almost an acre a second, according to the United Nations Environment Programme...

The House of Representatives banking sub-committee called on the World Bank in December 1984 at least to assign a full-time environmental staff member to each of its six regional offices...

environmentalists in Downing Street last November, Mrs Thatcher asked for clear prescriptions for action on clear issues. Here is a package for her:

Members of Parliament are at last beginning to recognize the importance of the issue. Some 60 have responded positively to rain-forest lobbyists...

The US Treasury has supported the environmentalists in Congress. It has appointed its own specialist staff to remind the multilateral banks of their environmental shortcomings...

As in Brazil, so in Indonesia. There the World Bank, the EEC's European Development Fund and other international agencies are helping to finance the migration of millions of landless peasants from Java and other fertile central islands to the infertile but rain-forest-covered outer islands...

- List of top ten men's names with previous year's positions in brackets: 1 Bob (7), 2 Ronald (2), 3 Boris (-), 4 Michael (-), 5 Zia (9), 6 Terry and Arthur (10), 7 Rajiv (-), 8 Delbow (-), 9 Ian (2), 10 Derek (-)

- List of top ten women's names with previous year's positions in brackets: 1 Michael (-), 2 Maggie (1), 3 Di (2), 4 Nancy (4), 5 Raisa (-), 6 Madonna (-), 7 Martina (8), 8 Winnie (-), 9 Jackie (7), 10 Keri (-)

This is the first time the women's list has been headed by a man's name, thanks entirely to the efforts of Princess Michael of Kent. DI has again done very well, despite the fact that Princess Diana hates the name and is never called by it...

Vertical text on the far right edge of the page, including names like 'WHY?' and 'Miles Kington'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom left of the page.



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WHY WAIT THIRTY YEARS?

Early in 1955 Sir Winston Churchill's Cabinet received the report of the Grigg committee on public records recommending that the archives be opened to general view after 50 years elapsed. An element in the Cabinet, a patrician element including the Cabinet Secretary Sir Norman Brook, demurred. Disclosure, it was said, would embarrass politicians still alive. Now, in 1986, that we see their deliberations, albeit filtered through the sieve of Whitehall's minute-taking, we can enter their debate. Yes, much of our curiosity is prurient. It is difficult not to delight in Churchilliana: the force of a great historical personality shows even in annotations to the papers about his hearing problems. And even Sir Norman Brook's emollient versions of Cabinet deliberation cannot entirely efface the interplay of competitive politicians - figures such as Macmillan laying the groundwork of his succession and Eden vainly combating fatal flaws in his capacity to lead men and envision events.

ence and perhaps sympathize as they attempted to pay for a first-class world role with the resources of a second-rank economy. Their view of official information was coloured by the war years too: none then could see that the miserliness with which British government eked out official information on all subjects would soon become symptomatic of a failing - across all parties - to enlist the uninformed British public in the hard issues of controlling public expenditure. During 1955, entirely in secret, the Chancellor R.A. Butler conducted a five-year forward look at social services expenditure. He told his colleagues in unvarnished terms that the projected growth rates necessarily entailed no scope for significant tax cuts. This kind of survey, like Mrs Thatcher's ten year forward look at spending of two years ago, is precisely the style of Whitehall deliberation that should be made public immediately. Waiting 30 years does not help contemporary political education.

minimize friction over housing. In 1955, and for years to come, governments chose to do neither. Stronger leadership, notably from Eden who appeared to have scant interest in domestic affairs, could have saved much grief.

The second concerned schooling. In April 1955 Sir David Eccles, the greatest of Conservative education ministers, told his colleagues that Labour was trading on deep public unhappiness at the effects of the 11 plus examination and proffering comprehensive as the solution. He offered them the beginnings of a Tory alternative - an alternative which had successor governments taken it up might have saved the grammar schools and made the secondary moderns precisely that: popular modern schools offering better vocational training and specialist preparation both for the world of work and for advanced education in a new generation of colleges of technology. Sir David's plan can still be studied with profit.

The third was perhaps the most important. The 1955 papers will surely further serve to discredit the reputation of Anthony Eden and his failure to seize the hour of domestic prosperity for vital institutional reform. During the year the industrialist Lord Nuffield visited the prime minister and told him the solution to Britain's bad record of strikes and industrial breakdown was simpler: the legal requirement that unions conduct secret ballots before strikes were called and before officers were elected. Eden, aided and abetted by his Minister of Labour, the great conciliator Walter Monckton, would not act. A Cabinet committee was established. Secret ballots, said Monckton, would be resisted as an interference with the right to strike. But their institution, in the mid 1950s, could have been the first step to a modernization of union practice and industrial relations which is only now beginning.

might-have-been is a poor song for a historian or a politician to sing. The concatenation of events facing one Cabinet can never properly be compared with the environment of another. Yet the Public Record Office's annual - and partial - opening of the files is always educational. We learn, for one thing, of the best reason why the grandees of 1955 and all their successors are so reluctant to give up the record of their discussions. The record discloses the mistakes.

MISSION TO MADRID

Lord Carrington has begun 24 hours of talks in Madrid which he is visiting for the first time since becoming Secretary-General of Nato 18 months ago. Those timescales imperfectly reflect the delicate nature of his mission and the importance of its success or failure for the Western alliance.

is certainly impeccable, with his country still on something of a "high" following its entry into the Common Market. The Secretary-General's presence is another sign of the country's rising status as a European power. Moreover, Lord Carrington personally is still looked upon with favour in Madrid as the man who got things going on Gibraltar with the 1980 Lisbon Agreement. The Spaniards are a long way from realizing their dream over the Rock. But the agreement has led to a discussion of the issues. Britain's then Foreign Secretary, the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe success story also behind him, is still seen in Madrid as a skilful and effective statesman.

trading the bases now, he can win support for his Nato referendum, and the Pentagon clearly respects his political judgement.

It is a *quid pro quo* which in theory is less than satisfactory. Spain's political membership of the alliance in return for the loss of American men and materiel, does not sound like the deal of the century, not anyway until Spain's own forces have been fully re-equipped to take their place. And even then they would not be fully integrated within Nato's command and control system.

On the other hand "reduction" is a reducible word. Nor do the negotiations need to be completed until next year, when the present bases agreement comes up for renewal. Both sides might feel morally committed to make some adjustments to the number of US troops (currently 9,000). But the important thing for Nato is that Gonzalez survives his referendum and lives to fight another day.

Spain's armed forces are already undergoing a series of slimming and strengthening exercises which is good news for Nato as well as themselves, however painful the process may be at the time. The total strength of the armed forces should be down to 260,000 this year after a period of attrition in which the size of the Army alone has been trimmed by 85,000 in three years.

So how can he help? One way simply by going there. The ring of Gonzalez's invitation

and ask ourselves if the present TV-inspired picture-grams haven't had their day? Only the subject seems to change: the wall-to-wall treatment is the same. Many commemoratives have been spoiled by the failure to realise that the Sovereign and the inscription must always be given fair proportion.

and were always behind that curious blend of blunting and nobility which distinguished the finest British examples.

Yours faithfully, R. HETHERINGTON, Holm Glen, Parkett Hill, Scotby, Carlisle, Cumbria, December 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How health authority copes with cuts

From the Chairman of the Bloomsbury Health Authority
Sir, Dr Soubami's account (December 30) of the revenue-saving measures adopted by Bloomsbury Health Authority is factually correct, but his somewhat emotive description of their impact might be seen to detract from the quite legitimate debate about the adequacy of resources for inner-city teaching districts.

Union's boycott of MP's letters

From Mr Ken Terry
Sir, No doubt readers were somewhat perplexed by Colin Moynihan's letter (December 30) as it completely failed to mention why he is in dispute with the Lewisham branch of Nalگو. He appears greatly indignant to discover that his powers as member of Parliament outside the House of Commons are the same as any citizen.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 3 1969
For over two years in Cuba, Fidel Castro waged a guerrilla war against Fulgencio Batista the country's president/dictator. His victory was won with a force of fewer than 1,000 men.

HAVANA GREET'S FIRST REBEL TROOPS

HAVANA, JAN 2
Dr. Manuel Urrutia, who was proclaimed provisional revolutionary President of Cuba at one o'clock this morning in Santiago de Cuba, was reported this afternoon to be heading for Havana accompanied by Raul Castro, one of Fidel Castro's brothers, and a column of 1,000 men. The rebel radio announcement said that Ernesto Guevara, the Argentine rebel commander of the rebel forces, was also moving towards Havana at the head of 2,000 men.

The forgotten disease

From Professor Ernest Gellner, FBA
Sir, Your series of articles on this tragic subject (December 16-18) will reach me much too late, apart from underlining the hollowness of the "return to the community" slogan, it also stimulates a sense of urgency concerning the need for legal reform - a point well made by Dr D. J. King (December 21).

Drive to monopoly

From the Chairman of Watts Blake Beame & Co, Plc
Sir, I write to express sympathy with the observations made by Esmond Buller, MP (December 16).

WORK AT STANDSTILL

Here in the Cuban capital, the city awakened to virtual paralysis today: all private and Government offices were closed; so were stores, shops, bars, and restaurants. Only one newspaper, a new publication called *Revolucion*, saw the light of day. Armed groups of rebel militiamen and members of the Revolutionary Directorate are patrolling the streets of Havana in an effort to prevent disorders and plundering.

Aids for shareholders

From Mr L. G. Beaver
Sir, City of London activities are much in the limelight these days. There is one aspect which may be worth mentioning. It concerns the forecasting of company results by financial analysts, often from the company's own stockbroker. Much forecasting is almost entirely accurate.

Violence on television

From Mr J. E. Humphrey
Sir, Mr Kureishi, writing about violence on television (December 28), does so from the theatre. I do so from the home.

Terms of endearment

From Commander W. R. Miller
Sir, Recent correspondence in your columns about vegetarian feasts prompts me to pose a question which has long troubled me.

Sleepers awake

From the Reverend Kevin M. Pelham
Sir, Your correspondent, Professor Ian Fells (December 28) is undoubtedly correct. Although never having had the privilege of a British Rail sleeper, I have travelled extensively by rail in all parts of Australia, and my experience there has been exactly the same.

Wind in the wires

From Mr Robert Vincent
Sir, Years ago, as a young lad working on top of GPO telegraph poles, my ladder sometimes fell away, leaving me stranded. The "haunting" man of the wind in the wires... (December 27) could well have been me calling for help.

Which chestnut?

From the Director of the Henry Doubleday Research Association
Sir, We are planting a tree museum of all the species valued for their special qualities by the craftsmen of England, with accounts of their many uses, such as aspen for arrows, sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) which can last longer than oak making furniture, and the roofs of many medieval buildings, including Westminster Hall?

Fit to print

From Mr R. L. S. Coulson
Sir, Of the four books I received this Christmas, two were printed in Hong Kong, one in Czechoslovakia and one (the best-selling *In Person: The Prince and Princess of Wales*) was printed in Spain.

Born to blush unseen

From the Reverend John Ticehurst
Sir, A hundred years ago the General Register Office included at the front of marriage registers an alphabetical list of common English and Welsh names so that the spelling could be got right for a change. In the list are for boys:

Far festive fare

From Mrs Pamela Colman
Sir, With reference to our man in Mongolia's Christmas pud (Spectrum, December 23), I was despatched from deepest Wiltshire into the care of my young Taiwanese guest a farmhouse Cheddar cheese, to be taken by train and plane to Taipei for the Chinese New Year.

WITHOUT TRANSPORT

Rebel militiamen are continuing mopping-up operations in the city in an effort to neutralize aggressive pro-Batista elements which are causing occasional trouble. The city remains without transport because of the general strike. A mass labour rally is being held in the central park to demand the installation of Dr. Urrutia as President.

PROVISIONAL CAPITAL

In naming Dr. Urrutia provisional President early to-day, Dr. Fidel Castro also proclaimed Santiago as the provisional capital of Cuba.

Among the list for common girls' names are included the following:

- Adeleza, Aislie, Alberta, Albina, Amabel, Aspasia, Avioce, Boadicea, Claribel, Cleopatra, Clotilda, Dagmar, Decima, Elice, Eshelida, Euphrosyne, Gundreda, Hope, Hortensia, Hyppatia, Kerenhappuch, Keurath, Keziah, Lesbia, Letrice, Lucretia, Medora, Meta, Minna, Mirella, Oenone, Oryth, Pansy, Pomona, Rachel, Rosalind, Sophronia, Sydney, Theodosia, Toby, Tryphenia, Urania, Victorine, Yeta, Zania, Zelypha.

We have lost every one of these riches from the past, which were called common only a few decades ago. But did any one know?

Kerenhappuch? Yours faithfully, JOHN TICEHURST, The Manse, Franklin Avenue, Braunton, North Devon.

Hopefully yours,

PAMELA COLMAN, Moss Cottage, Echlhampton, Devizes, Wiltshire, December 27.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE January 2: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, will be represented by Major-General Sir Brian Wyldon-Smith at the funeral of Colonel A. D. Taylor which was held at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington, Oxfordshire, this afternoon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mrs N. J. Porter and Miss N. C. Cowell The marriage has been arranged between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Porter of Cranley, Co. Clare and Naomi, younger daughter of Mr P. T. Cowell, of Wareham, Dorset, and Lady Neville, of Edingthorpe, Norfolk.



Rebecca Poulton, aged two, who has had arthritis since her birth, joining her mother, Mrs Shirley Poulton, of Windsor, at the launch in Hammersmith yesterday of the fiftieth anniversary gathering of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council and arthritis research in Britain (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, 79; Mr David Atherton, 42; Mr John Barnborough, 63; Mr Michael Barratt, 58; Mr Victor Barge, 71; Professor Bryan Carsberg, 47; Lord Colyton, 84; Mr Fran Cotton, 38; Sir Alastair Forbes, 78; Mr R. Hanbury-Tenison, 61; Sir Roy Harding, 62; Sir Errington Kettle, 85; Miss Anya Linden, 53; Sir John Riddell, 52; Mr R. R. Steedman, 57; Mr John Thaw, 44; Mr David Vase, 50; Mr Michael Vyner, 43; Professor T. S. Willan, 76.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of the industrial policy committee of the CBI, to be a trustee and chairman of the Science Museum in succession to Sir Arnold Hall, FRS, who retired on December 31. Mr Lawrence Brandes, former under-secretary in the Office of Arts and Libraries, to be a trustee of the museum in succession to Sir John Lidbury, on the expiry of his term of office.

Legal

Mr John Altman to be a full-time chairman of industrial tribunals in the Sheffield region from January 13. Mrs Barbara Adamson Calvert, QC, to be a full-time chairman of industrial tribunals in the London South region from January 13.

Kingswood School

Spring Term at Kingswood begins on January 7, 1986. The entrance examination will be held on February 3. Four performances of La Belle Helene will be given at the school from March 5 to 8. The Kingswood Association London dinner is on March 20 at the Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue.

Marriages

Mr P. V. Devine and Miss K. M. Hooper The marriage took place in London on January 2, 1986, between Mr Paul Vincent Devine and Miss Karen Margaret Hooper.

The Queen grants 38 royal warrants

By Robin Young

The Queen has granted 38 new royal warrants to tradesmen who regularly supply her with goods and services ranging from the purely practical to the positively prodigious. Those who are newly allowed to describe themselves as "By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen" include suppliers of preserved timber fencing (Armstrong Addison & Co Ltd of Sunderland); suppliers of pea harvesting equipment (FMC Corporation); and fertilizer manufacturers (UKF Fertilisers).

Latest wills

Lord Diplock, a lord of appeal in ordinary since 1968, who gave his name to the Diplock court system in Northern Ireland, left an estate valued at £349,588 net. After various bequests he left the residue upon trust to his wife for life and then to the trustees of a trust to form "the Diplock Bequest", for educational purposes of a charitable nature connected with the Middle Temple, and one-tenth of the residue to the Baristers Benevolent Association.

Church to celebrate laity centenary

The Church of England celebrates next month the centenary of the foundation of its first house of laity. The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend a church service at Westminster Abbey on February 3, and a reception afterwards at the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, to mark the reform.

University news

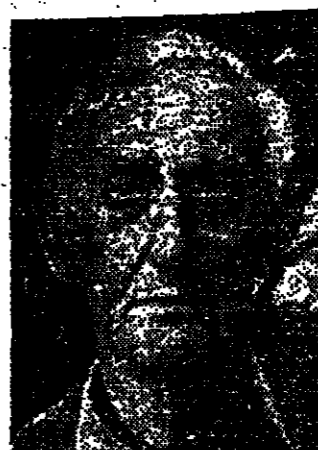
ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, Oxford, has elected Professor F. C. M. Brown as its 16th President. Professor Brown, who is also a Fellow of the British Academy, was elected to the post on December 27. He was managing director and chairman of the Real Estate Corporation of South Africa from 1950 to 1973 and from 1973 to 1979 deputy chairman.

Science report

Heart transplant operations in the United States in the next few years are likely to include increasing numbers of children, according to Dr Norman Shumway, the pioneer surgeon at Stanford University medical centre in California. Similar progress can also be expected in Britain where in July 1984 a 10-day-old baby girl became the world's youngest heart transplant recipient.

OBITUARY LORD DAVID CECIL Eminent man of letters

Lord David Cecil, CH, CLit, the eminent critic and man of letters, died on January 3 at the age of 83.



Through his teaching and his books, Cecil did much to popularise author or periods which have at various times fallen out of favour with the critical profession, and his writings had a wide appeal to the general reader. He was Goldsmith's Professor of English Literature in the University of Oxford from 1948 to 1969.

Lord Edward Christian David Gascoyne Cecil, who was born on April 9, 1902, was the second son and fourth child of the fourth Marquess of Salisbury. In his childhood he mixed in the remarkable society of Hatfield House and formed those opinions on politics, religion and literature which he kept throughout life.

He went to Eton, which he greatly enjoyed, and then to Christ Church, Oxford, where he was fortunate to be inspired by the teaching of K. G. Felting, and took a first class in history in 1924. Feeling that his tastes were academic rather than political, he accepted a fellowship at Wadham, where he taught first history and then English literature until 1932.

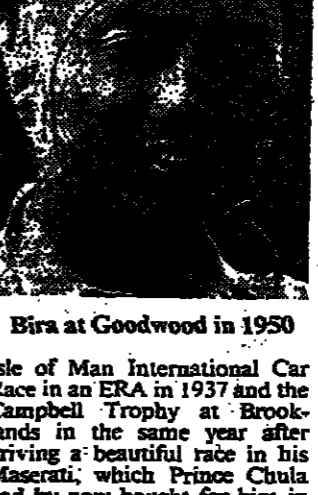
He was followed by his Clark Lectures on Hardy the Novelist (1943), in which he again anticipated modern admiration of Hardy as novelist and poet. Cecil's success as a writer and lecturer made him an obvious choice for the newly founded Goldsmith's Professorship of English Literature in 1948, and his election was fully justified, even by his tenure of the post. His formal lectures continued to attract large numbers, but perhaps his greatest contribution was in his discussion-classes where his nimble mind

Cecil was actually a man of letters rather than an academic. He was not drawn towards traditional scholarship, editing or large-scale literary history, and he was uninterested in critical theory. He was hostile towards dogmatism of every kind and regarded many of the discriminations and revaluations of critics of the thirties as evidence of their authors' imperfect sympathies rather than of their intellectual rigour.

His own interest was in works of art as the expression of individual imaginations, shaped but not limited by historical circumstances. This led him to biography and to the critical essay on a single work or on a single author's oeuvre.

His first book, The Stricken Deer (1929) was a deeply sympathetic and imaginative life of William Cowper; his second, Early Victorian Novels (1934), a set of essays based on his Oxford lectures, boldly defended writers then under a cloud of critical disapproval and general neglect, and strikingly anticipated the revival of admiration for the great Victorians.

During the war he was a glider instructor in the Air Training Corps and in 1946, after only 3 hours 35 minutes dual flying, he became one of the first pilots to qualify for an "A" licence following the lifting of the ban on civil flying. He returned to motor racing also, after the war, winning the 1946 Ulster Trophy in his ERA and the 1948 Zandvoort Grand Prix in the Maserati.



Prince Birabongse of Siam, better known as the racing driver B. Bira, died on December 23. He was 71.

Bira made his name as a driver of the British 1½ litre supercharged ERA car on domestic and foreign circuits in the 1930s and was a familiar sight in either of his blue racing vehicles, named Romulus and Remus at the Phoenix Park, Donington and Brooklands tracks. After Siam gained international recognition as a racing nation in 1939 Bira's car raced in the blue and yellow of his own country.

stimulated argument, kept contesting undergraduates to the point at issue, and delighted them by strokes of wit which they would later in the week regale their tutors. He continued to write. Two Quiet Lives which appeared in the year of his election, was perhaps rather too quiet a book, but Lord M (1954) was a worthy sequel to The Young Melbourne and showed his inborn grasp of the realities of politics.

He was much in demand for lectures and collected them in Poems and Stories (1949) and The Fine Art of Reading (1957).

Max (1964), a full-scale biography of Max Beerbohm, was written at the request of his widow. Some critics thought that Beerbohm's life was even quieter than the lives of Gray and Dorothy Osborne and did not merit such extended treatment. But his temperament and personality appealed very deeply to his biographer and it was this he set himself to display by extensive quotations from letters and personal papers and from the reminiscences of others.

The result was a triumph in its re-creation of a remarkable and original human being with an independence of mind that chimed with his biographer's. David Cecil had a great fondness of conversation, and many interests outside his work. His family life was one of throbbing happiness and drew out his most charming qualities. He had an avid curiosity about human beings, and if at times he seemed to trail reifs from a lost world of the past, that did not prevent him from entering with zest into the varied activities of university and college life.

After his retirement he settled at Cranborne, turned his mind to family history, and appeared frequently on television, being a great success in various parlor games as well as in Brains Trusts, and in more serious interviews and talks on poetry. This period produced several more books, including The Cecils of Hatfield House (1973), A Portrait of Jane Austen (1978) and A Portrait of Charles Lamb (1983).

He was appointed CH in 1949, CLit in 1972, and was an honorary doctor of London, Leeds, Liverpool, St. Andrews and Glasgow. But perhaps the recognition that gave him most pleasure was the volume of essays presented to him on his retirement which, being largely written by his old pupils, reflected both the wide range of his own interests and the inspiring success of his teaching.

By now Prince Chula had ceased to manage him and in the increasingly complex and costly world of postwar racing it became difficult to compete as a private entrant. Nevertheless he came 5th in the first postwar Grand Prix at Silverstone in 1948 and on several occasions was to hold the lap record on that circuit. He also took part in the first production car race at Silverstone, driving a Jaguar.

Mr J. Paul Austin, a former chairman of the Coca-Cola company who introduced the soft drink to China in 1978, died at his home at Santa on December 27. He was 70. Lady Moncreiff, wife of the 5th Baron Moncreiff, died on December 17. She was the former Enid Marion Watson Locke, and married in 1922.

Snaps at a snip.

At Boots, the season of goodwill runs from December 27th-January 31st. Bring your Christmas happy snaps along then, and with your prints you'll find coupons worth £22 off photographic equipment, film, processing and even cameras. It could be the best film offer this side of Hollywood.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'David', 'M', and 'Provise's Brilliant Protection'.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson greets an auspicious British start to 1986, and (below) John Preston meets the film's director

Gripping thriller of menacing contemporaneity

Gabriel Byrne (left), giving a star performance as the hero, and Denholm Elliott on home ground in Defence of the Realm



Defence of the Realm (PG) Odeon Haymarket

Fire Festival ICA

Best Defence (15) Plaza

With Defence of the Realm the British cinema makes an auspicious entry into 1986. As a political thriller of contemporary reference, it is something quite new for the national cinema...

owed much of its success to the way it reflected the aggressive optimism and competitive spirit of the early period of the Thatcher administration...

managed suspense sequences, admirable performances (most notably by Denholm Elliott) as the Fleet Street dinosaur who still believes in truth...

Behind the town rise the thickly forested foothills of a range of mountains. There is a sharp social division between the fisherfolk and the forest people who work the timber industry...

Practically every week nowadays produces a film that the critic believes must be the worst ever, but next week there is usually another. Best Defence, though, must surely and finally have struck rock-bottom...

'I was so hungry to make cinema that I wasn't going to let anything stand in my way'

The political thriller is a rare animal in the British cinema, seldom spotted and then usually found to be without much in the way of teeth...

break into drama with Ray Connolly's script Forever Young for the Putnam-produced First Love series on Channel 4...



Drury: "Now I want the whole train set"

Although Drury had been achieving to get out of documentaries and into drama for some time, he found his early training invaluable when he finally made the switch...

possible world they're only going to be 50 per cent against you. It was Drury's documentary on the inner workings of Manchester City for Granada that first brought him to Putnam's attention...

against Crystal Palace, who had just snapped up Allison. Drury followed up City with another documentary for Granada about Alan Minter's successful attempt to wrest the world middleweight crown from Vito Antuofermo in Las Vegas...

Television Emanating warmth

Oldham, which used to feature regularly on the list of most deprived towns in England and Wales, enjoyed a different claim to fame earlier this year when it was host to the Duke Ellington Convention (Duke Ellington - Love You Madly, Granada)...

end one was left with a marvellous sense of well-being. Private Enterprise (Channel 4), from the Comic Strip stable, took an old chestnut - the British rock industry and how to swindle it - mixed in some familiar elements (a Boy George double and a con-man) and yet managed to produce something fresh and engaging...

part. As he proved in a television programme a year or so ago, when he made the dramatic solo in Petruska's cell work perfectly in a studio without benefit of scenery...

supported by the playing all through the ensembles. Ashton's Les Patineurs began the evening, its dancing jokes about skaters showing the benefit of polished rehearsal...

Dance

The programme chosen to open Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's appearance in its home theatre on New Year's Eve was so seasonable that two of the three works ended in a flurry of snow...

part. As he proved in a television programme a year or so ago, when he made the dramatic solo in Petruska's cell work perfectly in a studio without benefit of scenery...

Nobody else whom I have seen in this ballet (not even Massimo, Nureyev or Golovine, the three strongest contenders) has made so much sense of it. Bintley's Petruska, like Nureyev's Spectre de la rose, uniquely has made me understand the excitement that those ballets were new, 75 years ago...

part. As he proved in a television programme a year or so ago, when he made the dramatic solo in Petruska's cell work perfectly in a studio without benefit of scenery...

Advertisement for 'NINETEEN NINETEEN' film, featuring Paul Scofield, Maria Schell, Frank Finlay, Diana Quick, and others. Directed by Michael Redford.

Advertisement for 'The Mastersingers of Nuremberg' opera, featuring Norman Bailey, Alan Opie, Kathryn Harries, and others. Conducted by Peter Robinson.

Concerts Renaissance giggles

Consort of Musicke/Rooley Wigmore Hall

This was the second successive New Year's Eve I had spent in the Wigmore Hall. The experience has its compensations. One is spared the Rabelaisian heights of self-expression found in Trafalgar Square, and the community singing of Scottish ballads is definitely off the menu...

out of tune for comic effect (even when asked to imitate violins), but the interpretations abounded in sly glissandi. Vecchi in more serious mood, as in the viol pieces or the four choral depictions of the "Musical Humours", was a far more commonplace composer...

Endymion Ensemble Wigmore Hall

It was no great service to Sir Michael Tippett to place his worthy Sonata for Four Horns of 1955 alongside two substantial works by Mozart. The experience was not unlike interrupting a tasting of two great vintages with a rather flat glass of tonic water...

thing to say, and, although stylistic observance was present, the reading was entirely unlettered by academic pedantry. The appearance of the horn quartet in the two minute movements can sound elephantine; here there was a peculiar feeling of forceful pathos...

Advertisement for 'The Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe' production, featuring Vanessa Ford Productions and Westminster Productions. Includes details about the film and contact information for Westminster Theatre.

Advertisement for 'The Mastersingers of Nuremberg' opera, featuring English National Opera and London Coliseum. Includes details about the production and contact information.

Advertisement for National Theatre productions, including 'The Duchess of Malfi' and 'Philip Prowse's Brilliant production'. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

Advertisement for 'Fire Festival' at the ICA Cinema, featuring a film by John Webster.

Advertisement for 'P.L.P.' (Public Library Project) at the ICA Cinema.

Advertisement for 'Laser Magic' at the ICA Cinema, featuring a film by John Webster.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares rise in quiet trade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 23. Dealings End, Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. Lists various companies like Micro Focus, First Circle Etc, GEC, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with 7 columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Includes instructions for claiming.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various funds like FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, etc.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists index-linked shares.

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Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists index-linked shares.

BREWERIES

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists brewery companies.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists bank discount companies.

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various companies.

BUILDING AND ROADS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists building and roads companies.

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists industrial companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists industrial companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists chemical and plastic companies.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists cinema and TV companies.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists drapery and store companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists electrical companies.

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various companies.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists finance and land companies.

FOODS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists food companies.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists hotels and caterers companies.

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists industrial companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists industrial companies.

INDUSTRIALS L-R

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists industrial companies.

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various companies.

INSURANCE

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists leisure companies.

MINING

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists mining companies.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists motors and aircraft companies.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists newspapers and publishers companies.

PROPERTY

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists property companies.

SHIPPING

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists shipping companies.

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various companies.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists overseas traders companies.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists paper, printing, and advertising companies.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists textile companies.

TOBACCO

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists tobacco companies.

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists various companies.

OIL

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists oil companies.

PROPERTY

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists property companies.

SHIPPING

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists shipping companies.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists textile companies.

TOBACCO

Table with 4 columns: 1985 High, Low, Company, Price. Lists tobacco companies.

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McMahon MISCO advertisement with text 'water denies shop claim' and 'Bever' logo.

WALL STREET

Share fall continues

New York (Agencies) - Prices opened lower yesterday in active trading of New York Stock Exchange shares.

The Dow Jones average, which fell 3.79 to 1546.67 on Tuesday was down 7.11 to 1539.56 shortly after the market opened.

Declining shares led advancing issues 496-411 among the 1,324 shares crossing the NYSE tape.

Mr Edward Nicolski, of Iper, Jaffray and Hopwood, the Minneapolis-based firm, said he was looking for the market to correct and consolidate until the spring.

It should then move to new high ground on the basis of an improving economy and more robust corporate earnings.

The market had already fared quite well on such terms as lower interest rates and expectations of a stronger economy.

Mr Eugene Peroni, of Bateman Eichler, agreed. The second course would have to provide more favourable corporate earnings than most analysts expected and significant progress on tax reform and budget deficit reduction.

Until then the market would remain in a digestive state.

Trading was generally quiet yesterday in the New Year aftermath, but silver and coffee provided some stimulation.

Silver was weak and, at about 400p an ounce spot on the London Metal Exchange, was at its weakest for three and a half years.

Other metals, however, did little, mainly reflecting sterling's strength. But among the softs, coffee advanced again, largely because of speculative buying.

Prices are now almost the highest for eight years. Raw sugar also saw some useful gains.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE table with columns for Rubber, Soybeans, Cocoa, etc.

SILVER LARGE table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

COFFEE HIGH GRADE table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

STANDARD CATHODES table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

LEAD table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

ZINC STANDARD table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

SOYABEAN table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

COFFEE table with columns for Cash, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION table with columns for Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, etc.

ENGLAND AND WALES table with columns for Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, etc.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES table with columns for Wheat, Barley, Oats, etc.

1985 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E table with columns for various companies.

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The pound began yesterday on an extremely firm note, reaching a high of 1.4630 against the dollar.

The effective index, from a high of 78.5 early in the session, ended unchanged at 77.9.

On the Continent, the pound also began well, but likewise fell to close slightly lower.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

OTHER STERLING RATES table with columns for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES table with columns for Argentina, Australia, Brazil, etc.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table with columns for various trust names and their values.

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Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR, AGA, Alcatel, etc.

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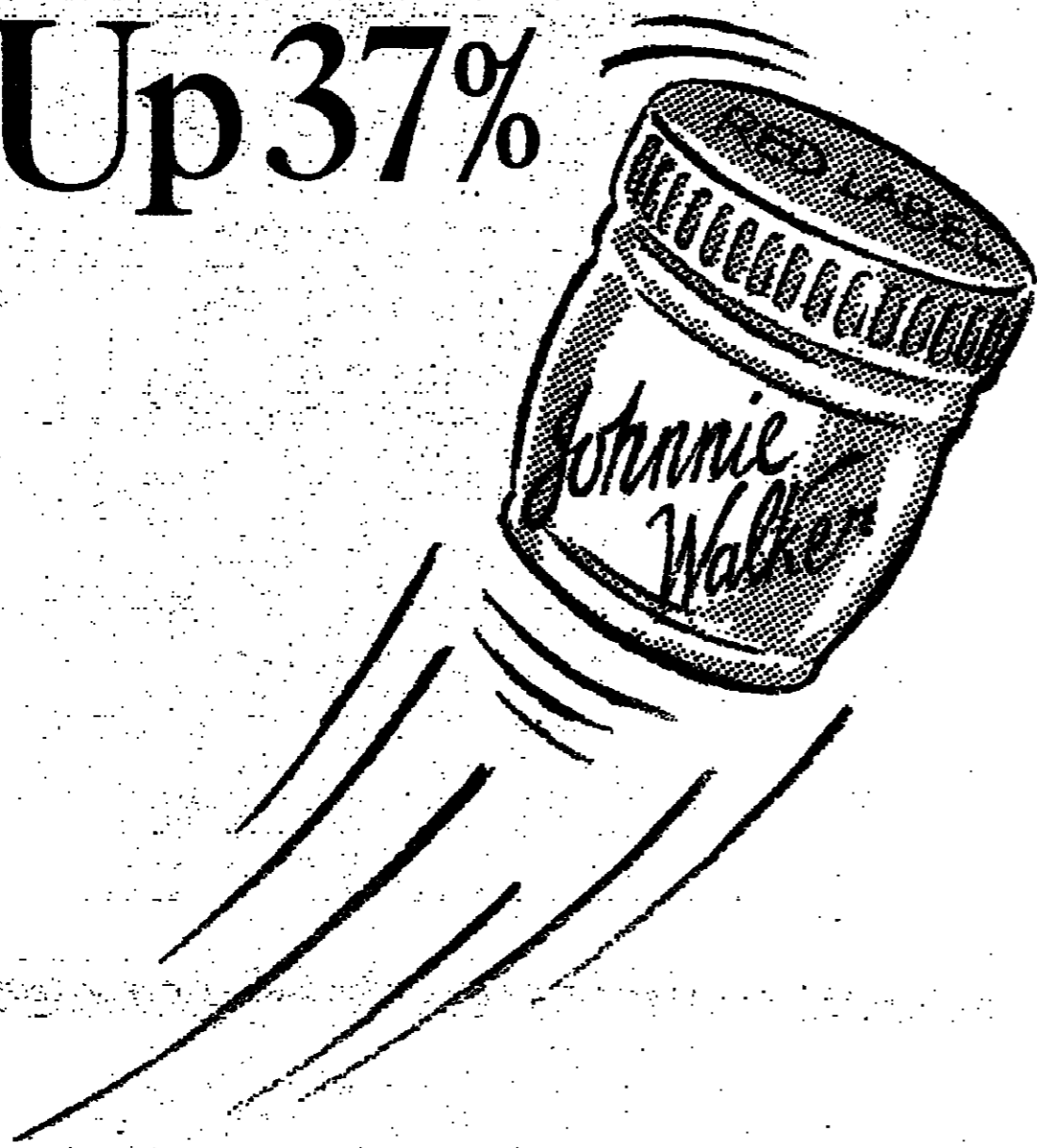
Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR, AGA, Alcatel, etc.

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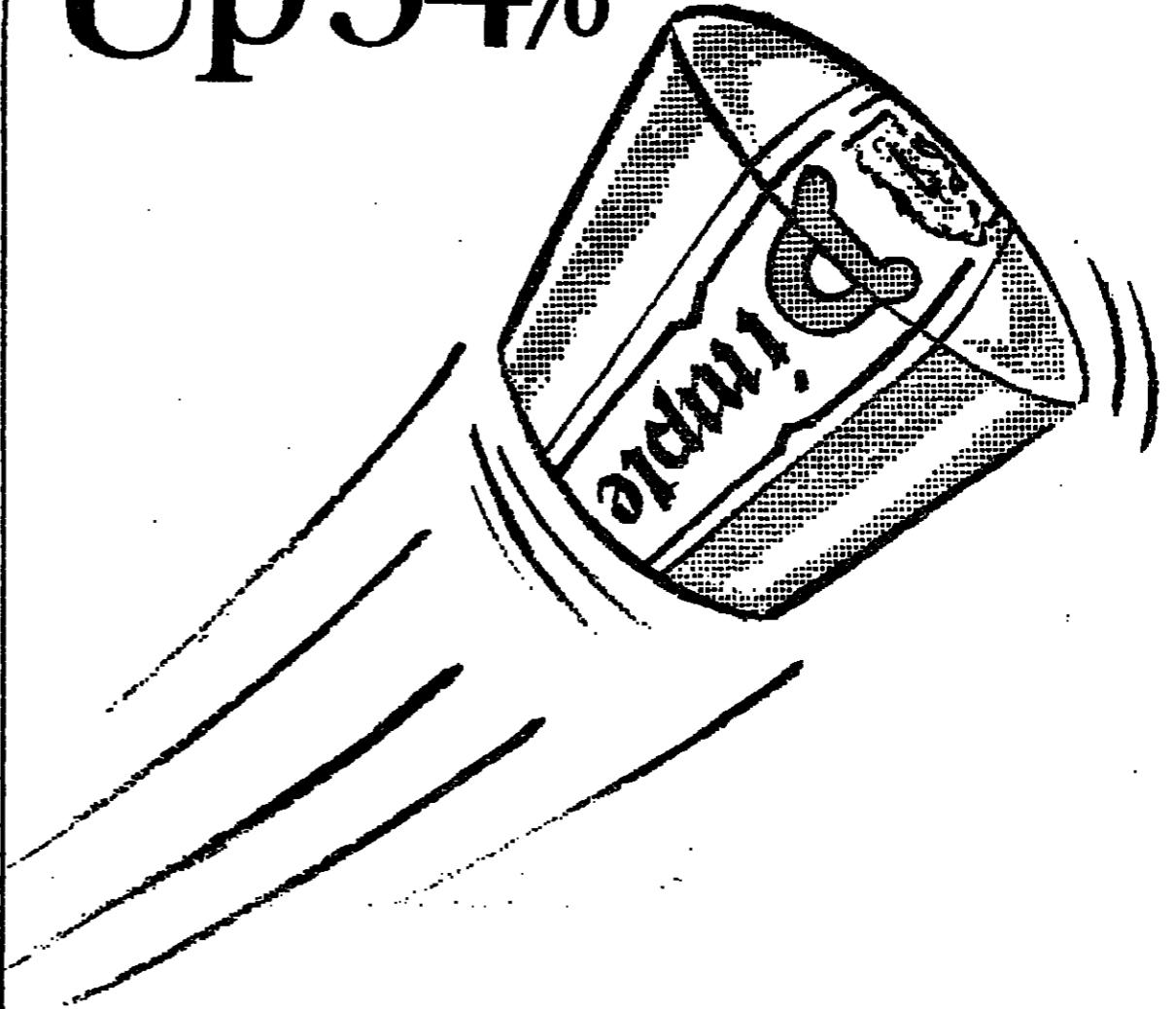
Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR, AGA, Alcatel, etc.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

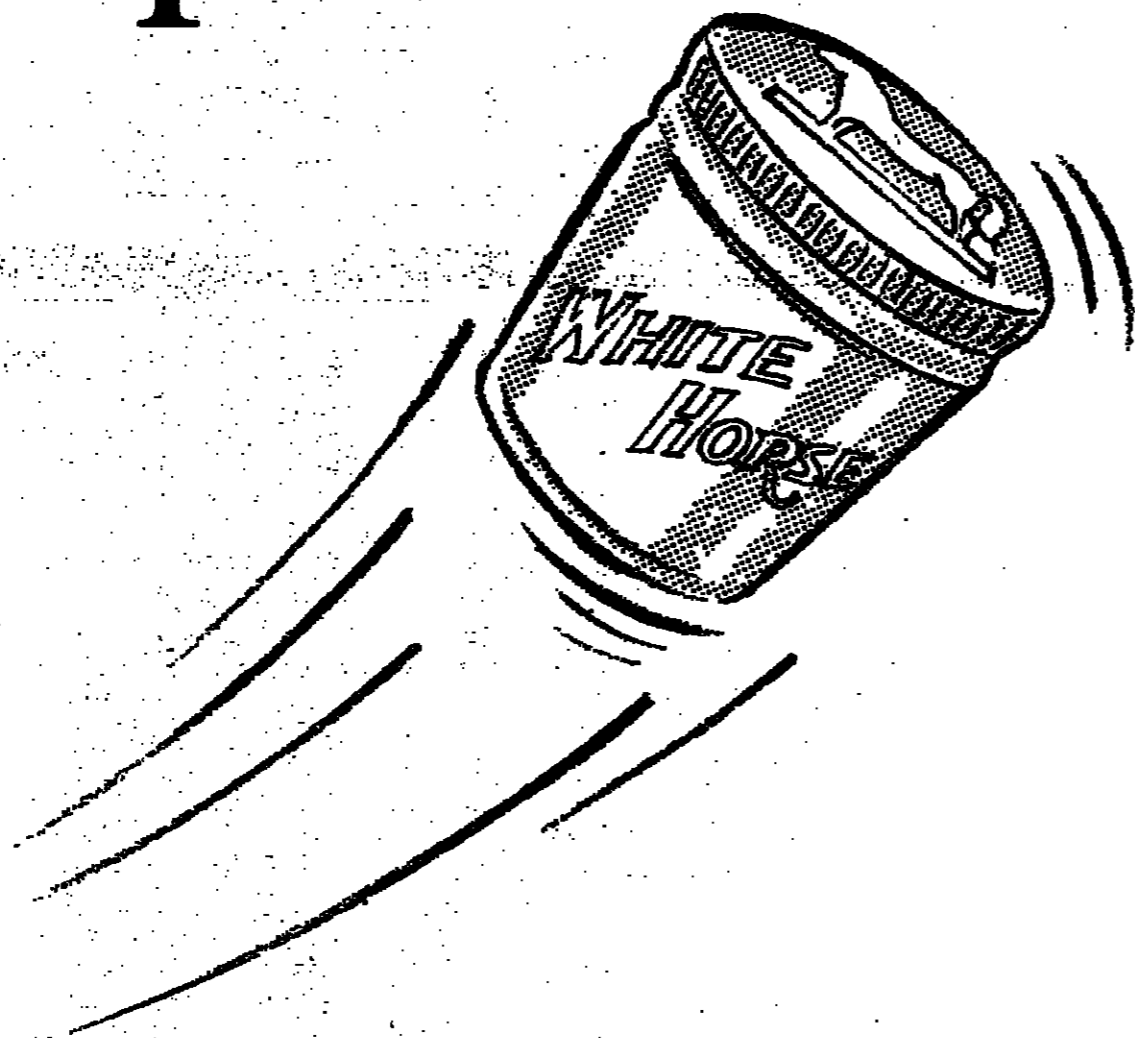
Up 37%



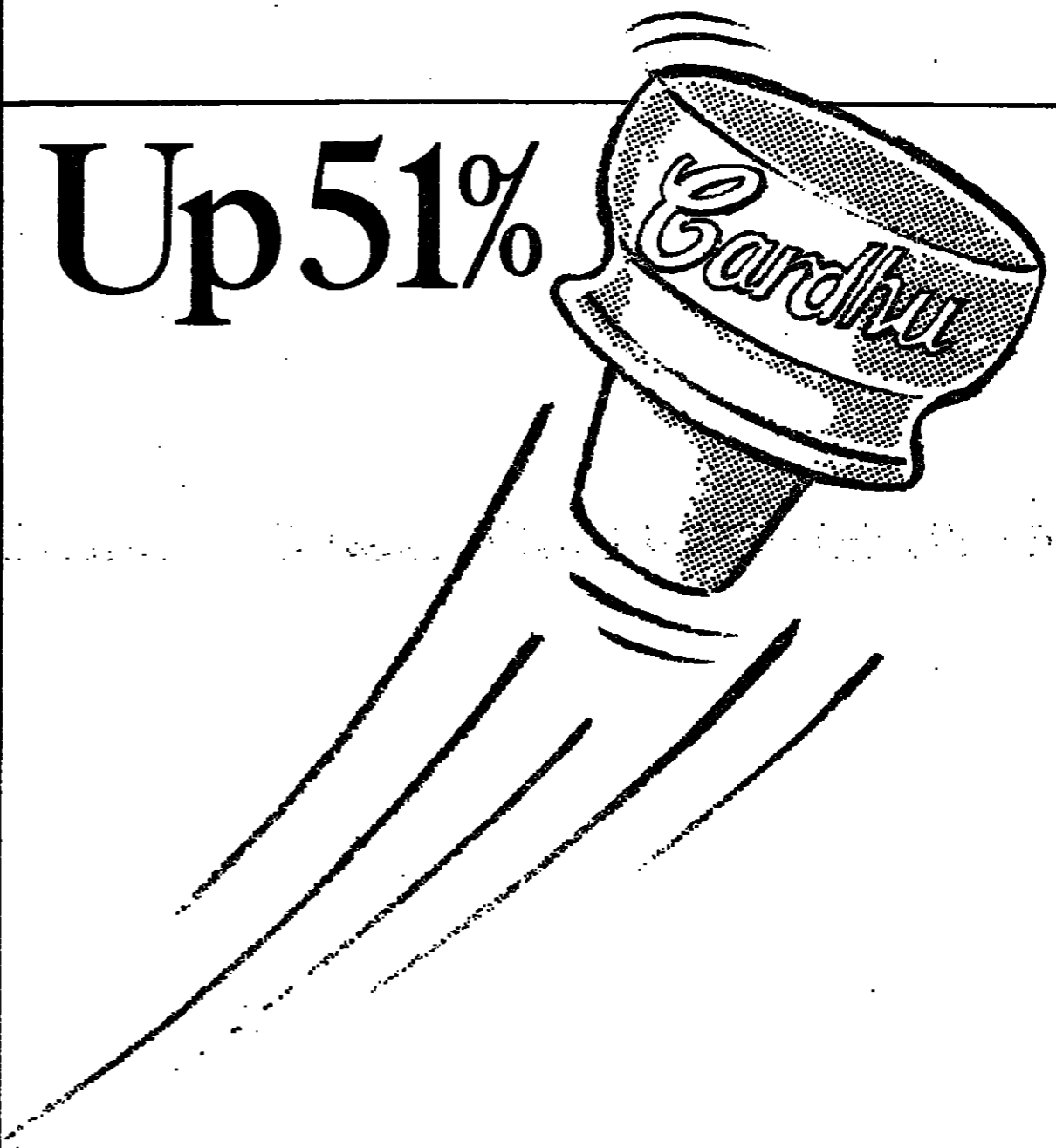
Up 34%



Up 23%



Up 51%



Source: DCL Home Trade Case Sales statistics April - September 1985 compared to same period previous year.

This should scotch
the story
you're spreading, Argyll.

The Distillers Company plc.

This advertisement is published by The Distillers Company plc, whose directors (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

Thinking of accepting Guinness Peat's offer? Think again!

Britannia shareholders are strongly advised by the Board of Britannia to:

Retain your shares

We firmly believe that Guinness Peat are not offering a realistic price for your shares.
Do not accept their offer to buy your shares on the cheap.

Look to the future

There are numerous options open to Britannia's management to ensure that shareholders' financial interests are fully protected after this inadequate offer has lapsed.

Support your winning team

Your management has provided shareholders with outstanding returns year in, year out. □ Remember, £1000 invested in Britannia in 1980 is worth over £7000 today. A similar investment in Guinness Peat is today only worth just over that very same £1000. (Source: Datastream.)
□ Continue to give your management your full support — they are worthy of it.

**Back Britannia's proven management.
Continue to support your board.**

Britannia Arrow

Continue to ignore the offer.

GOLF Crenshaw in search of his lost mastery

Ben Crenshaw begins the New Year in the Bahamas Classic starting on the Paradise Island course today hoping to rescue a career which turned sour from the moment he captured the US Masters 20 months ago.

Only Coetzee in the way of world title bout for Bruno

Frank Bruno is one contest away from a world heavyweight title bout. He has been matched with Germe Coetzee, of South Africa. The World Boxing Association No 1 at Wembley on March 4. If Bruno wins, as world No 1, he could be challenging the WBA champion Tony Tubbs of the United States, in the summer.



over 15 rounds by John Tate in 1979 in a WBA title bout, then he was knocked out by Mike Weaver (who could hit) in 13 rounds. In 1981 he lost on points to Renaldo Snipes and in 1984 Coetzee lost his WBA title to Greg Page in eight rounds.

ILEA blundering by moving away from team games

Paul Theroux, the American novelist, wrote in his essay on Being a Man (1984) that "the quest for manliness is essentially right wing, puritanical, cowardly, neurotic and largely fuelled by a fear of women. It is also certainly philistine".

RUGBY UNION: WALES FACE PROBLEMS IN REBUILDING. ENGLAND HAVE SOLID STRUCTURE

Welsh dreams must stay close to earth. The six long years that have passed without a sign of Wales winning the Triple Crown or five Nations championship underline the country's failure to come to terms with the period of transition which followed their golden age.

Championship proves its worth

The value of the Thorn EMI divisional championship was enhanced by the announcement on Wednesday of England's team to play Wales on January 18. Every player, including the replacements, have taken part in the championship which should leave no one in the shadow of the international selectors.

Sports pupils voting with their feet

Fortunately, the redundant sports pupils are voting with their feet and have moved into club football and rugby. It is trying to catch up in the business of creating junior sections to senior clubs. Football has increased its affiliated clubs, largely through Sunday football, from 23,000 to 41,000 over 20 years, and has 40,000 students in 1,000 regional coaching courses.

Australian dates

Australia will play home international matches against Italy, France and Argentina (twice) during June and July before making a tour of New Zealand in August and September which will include three international matches.

Courageous Champion try the Australians

The brief but fierce freez represented a set-back to representative school's rugby but the Astoria progress of the touring Australian Schools continues unabated. Their latest victory was at Kewell and it is a capitulating feat that apart from this hard fought win over Irish Schools (13-9), almost their most demanding fixture has been against a school side.

Ferns can thrive in desert

Great Britain will probably feel a little strange today when they begin their quadrangular tournament in Dubai on a grass pitch having achieved so much success in recent months on artificial turf. Their opponents over the next three days are West Germany, India and Pakistan.

Ambitious plan to extend game all over the country

network of junior teams. They will need to prove some financial, proper administrative and public relations staff, a ground with facilities up to professional standards, and a club house and social facilities.

South African thrown in at deep end

Ray Mordt, the South African wing, is getting a hard baptism of rugby league as he turns out for Wigan against Swinton on Sunday. Mordt arrived in Wigan from South Africa yesterday with his colleague, Rob Lowe, the forward (Keith Macklin writes). Mordt debunked suggestions that in signing the South Africans the Wigan club are supporting apartheid.

Fin could get the nod for place on wing

The Ireland team that defeated England at Lansdowne Road last year to seize both the triple and championship, would have been chosen on the opening international match against France in Paris on February 1. The main contenders for the outcome of tomorrow's final trial - Ireland v Combined Provinces.

Finn could get the nod for place on wing

Finna has been plagued by injury for the past season or so, but he has an excellent record in the green jersey which he has worn on 12 occasions since he was first capped in Paris on February 1, 1979. His last match was against Australia before the start of last season and though he is down to play in the centre for the Combined Provinces, it is equally likely that he will be chosen on the wing. If Finn is firing on all cylinders tomorrow, he could get the nod over Haycock.

Olympics main objective

At a special meeting of players, managers and officials in Liverpool after the women's territorial championship, general agreement was reached in the principle of participating in the Olympic Games.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- FOOTBALL: Chelsea v Hereford (7.30), Southampton v Burnley (7.45). BASKETBALL: Crystal Palace v World Invitational Club Championship. 1.30. Women's semi-final: 2.30. Soccer: Arsenal v Liverpool. 7.30. Women's semi-final: 8.15. Soccer: Arsenal v Liverpool. 7.30. Women's semi-final: 8.15. Soccer: Arsenal v Liverpool. 7.30. Women's semi-final: 8.15.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, containing text like 'Australia word of' and 'Moderate for 201'.

Arabic text at the bottom left corner of the page.

Zimbabwe and Bangladesh may risk expulsion from membership of ICC

Where will it all end? Cricketers were asking themselves last night after the England B tour to Bangladesh had been cancelled following a statement from the Bangladesh Government that Bill Athey, Kim Barnett, Martyn Moxon and Christopher Smith would be detained at Dhaka Airport unless they signed a declaration to say that they deplored apartheid and would neither play nor coach in South Africa again until the system was dismantled. They were not encouraged to do so.

Tour to W Indies 'not in jeopardy'

Steve Camacho, the West Indies Cricket Board of Control secretary, told The Times from Kingston, Jamaica last night that he did not expect the Bangladesh Government's attitude towards the B team's visit to have any effect on the England tour to the West Indies. "We have spent a long time paving the way for England's tour with the various heads of Government in the different territories where England are playing. Everybody is satisfied that the principles of the Clesges Agreement have been observed. Neither the Government nor cricket officials expect any new problems to arise."

But what next? How will yesterday's setback affect England's forthcoming tour to the West Indies? It would probably mean only one Caribbean government, as a gesture of "solidarity" towards Bangladesh to issue a similar stipulation for that visit, too, to be cancelled. Last summer the tour was threatened by Antigua, whose Foreign Minister asked for and

Australia put to swift sword of Srikanth

Sydney (Agency) - Sanil Gavaskar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth scored hundreds to take India to a formidable 334 for one on the opening day of the third and final Test here yesterday. The two batsmen, helped early on by speedy Australian fielding, batted brilliantly but the manner of their innings was in marked contrast. Gavaskar was at his meticulous best, reaching his 32nd Test century in 284 minutes off 238 balls and going on to 132 not out by the close. Srikkanth, meanwhile, batted with customary élan to record his first hundred in his 14-Test career in 152 minutes off 97 balls.

The day was dominated by Srikkanth's display. His 116 lasted 117 balls and included one six and 19 fours. He totally monopolized a 191-run first-wicket partnership with Gavaskar and at one stage moved from 26 to 77 in 47 minutes with Gavaskar remaining on 27. Handicapped by a painful bruise to his left foot, Srikkanth batted with a runner for most of his 190 minutes at the crease. But the sensation of the day was his explosive flourish from his bat ensured that his run, Sivaramakrishnan, had little to do.

In one memorable over, Srikkanth hit a six and four fours off Bob Holland, whose leg-spin off the Test against West Indies on this ground last year. Srikkanth then took 14 runs off the next over, from Bruce Reid.

It was Reid who subsequently took the only wicket to fall during the day, Srikkanth pulling a ball

with such credentials is needed if Yorkshire are to improve both their image and their playing record. Mr Cavdery, a 54-year-old insurance company executive based at Peterborough, is on the disciplinary committee of the Test and County Cricket Board.

Change for Osborne

John Osborne, the former West Bromwich Albion goalkeeper, is to join Worcester City as their new commercial manager. Osborne, aged 45, succeeds David Exall. Another former Albion goalkeeper, Jimmy Cumbs, holds a similar position with Warwickshire.

MOTOR RACING Japanese killed in French event

Sie. France (AFP) - Yasuo Kaneko, a Japanese restaurateur, who was taking part in the Paris-Dakar road rally on his motorcycle, was killed near this southern port city yesterday after what officials said was a head-on collision with a Peugeot 205, which may have been on the wrong side of the road, on a bend at Balazuc-Bains some five kilometres from Sète.

The 22-day rally, which will end on the Atlantic beach in the Senegalese capital in West Africa on January 22, had started earlier on Wednesday from Versailles.

Boxing Featherweight clash

Nairobi (ARP) - The postponed bout for the Commonwealth and African featherweight boxing title between Nanyuki Oduora, of Kenya, and Snake Mander, of Zimbabwe, will now take place on March 1. The Commonwealth title has been vacant since being relinquished by Azumah Nelson, of Ghana, now the World Boxing Council featherweight champion.

Seeking Sacco Rome (AP) Rodolfo Sabbatini, the Italian matchmaker who is organizing the World Boxing Association (WBA) eight-welterweight championship bout between Rubelex Nator Sacco, of Argentina, and the Italian challenger, Patrizio Oliva, said the world champion will be stripped of his title if he does not defend by March 15.

BASKETBALL



Ball-watching: Soldner, of Marathon Oil, and Sunair Ostende's De Keere (foreground) prepare to do battle for a rebound (Photograph: Chris Cole).

Kingston almost come unstuck

The next time Team Polywell Kingston need a new sponsor, they should find a razor blade company. The team which specializes in close shaves were at it again at Crystal Palace yesterday when they made hard work of qualifying for the semi-finals of the World Invitation Club championships against Irish opponents who had experienced a humiliating 66-point defeat against Montebiano, from São Paulo, the night before.

Robbins adopts a cautious approach

Graham Robbins, one of England's new crop to play Wales at Twickenham on January 18, has pulled out of Coventry's home game against Neath on Saturday and will not play again before his international qualification.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for RUGBY UNION, ICE HOCKEY, BASKETBALL, REAL TENNIS, CYCLING, and CRICKET, listing various sports events and results.

Wednesday's late results

Table listing late results for GOLA LEAGUE, VALDOLFINO LEAGUE, MULTIPARTY LEAGUE, and CRICKET.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns for FRANCE, ITALY, and SCOTLAND, providing snow depth and weather reports for various regions.

FOOTBALL

England begin tour with date in Cairo

Bobby Robson, the team manager, put the finishing touches to England's World Cup preparations on Monday. The programme begins with a friendly against Egypt in Cairo on January 29, the day Robson had originally arranged to play Yugoslavia.

The high-altitude training will be interrupted by a game against the Mexican first division side Guadalajara in Los Angeles on May 16.

FA remove West Ham one worry for Palace by League

The Football Association today eased Crystal Palace's fears that their cup would be sacrificed to Sunday's return of live televised football.

Palace's assistant manager, Ian Baker, said that the FA's decision was a relief, as it would not affect the club's television deal.

Palace's chairman, Martin Bates, said he was pleased with the decision, as it would allow the club to focus on their league and cup commitments.

Palace's manager, Ron Green, said he was pleased with the decision, as it would allow the club to focus on their league and cup commitments.

Nicholl is cleared

The Southampton manager, Chris Nicholl, has escaped censure from the Football Association after allegedly saying that a referee should be suspended for two matches beginning on Saturday week after his booking on Saturday night.

Ambitious scheme for a Barnett face-lift

Barnet, who has begun 1986 with a new manager, hope to be playing on a new surface by the start of next season.

Captain Kilcline

Coventry have appointed Brian Kilcline as captain in place of Wayne Turner. The club's manager, Don Mackay, said the change was reached by mutual agreement with the two players.

New date

Brentford's home third division game against Notts County, which was postponed on Wednesday, will now be played on Wednesday, January 8 (kick off 7.45 p.m.).

Advertisement for Intercity National Squash Challenge 1985, featuring a large graphic and text promoting the event.

Becker's ghosted threat to the gentle spirit of a different generation

Boris Becker has descended from his Christmas in the mountains to offer West Berliners a close-up view of the extraordinary brand of power tennis in the Young Masters... From Richard Evans, West Berlin

completely different computer. Burger, a man whose daring is as upright as his character, has always tended to shy away from blue amateurism... British girls in new event

Annabel Croft, Sara Gomez and Joanne Lewis will represent Britain in next week's qualifying competition... By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Sailing close to the wind for victory

The American entry, Atlantic Privateer, sailed by Peter Kugel and a largely South African crew, was first across the finishing line at the end of the second leg... From John Nicholls, Auckland

Neither Atlantic Privateer nor NZ Enterprise did well in the first trier... Boat Show diary

Strong crew for Jade's challenge off Florida

One Ton Cup winner Jade, owned by Larry Woodall, is to compete in the Southern Ocean Racing Conference off Florida in early February... By Adrian Morgan

Sagacious is first at last

Hobart, Australia (AFP) - The Australian yacht, Sagacious, was named "overall winner" in the official presentation programme... Hobart, Australia (AFP) - The Australian yacht, Sagacious, was named "overall winner" in the official presentation programme...



Mark Dwyer, seen here aboard his Gold Cup winner Forgive/Forget, returns to partner Jimmy Fitzgerald's pair Henry's True Love and Kevinistort at Haydock today, having been sidelined since mid-December with a bruised foot

Pipe dreams could be realized by Corporal Clinger

Those people who persist in dismissing Martin Pipe as just a title West Country trainer may yet be struck by the words when the Champion Hurdle is run in March... By John Karter

Somerled to defy penalty

Somerled, who caused acute embarrassment to form students and the official handicapper when winning at Doncaster last month, can prove his record-breaking success there was no fluke by winning the Gatekeepers Handicap Chase at Haydock Park this afternoon... By Mandarin

Ascot objective

Catch Phrase, the 12-year-old winner of the West Hurdle at Ascot, will now be aimed at Ascot's Great Highlander Chase a week today... Ascot objective

Hereford off

Today's meeting at Hereford has been abandoned after inspection yesterday revealed that the take-offs and landings at the fences were waterlogged... Hereford off

Today's course specialists

HAYDOCK TRAINERS: M Hadden, 10 winners from 67 runners...

Cheltenham results

Cheltenham results: 1.30 (2m 2h) R. SWISS BUCK F Souderton, 14-12...

Langfield Park

Langfield Park: 1.15 (2m 2h) 1. BERLIN (P) Tuck, 8-12...

HAYDOCK PARK

Table with race details: 12.45 GOLTON SELLING HURDLE (2918; 2m) (18 runners)

HAYDOCK PARK

Table with race details: 1.15 GAMEKEEPERS HANDICAP CHASE (22,080; 2m) (4)

Haydock selections

Table with race details: 1.15 Gamekeepers Handicap Chase (22,080; 2m) (4)

AYR

Table with race details: 12.45 DRUMGON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (2981; 2m) (8 runners)

AYR

Table with race details: 1.15 DALRYMPLE NOVICE HURDLE (2885; 2m) (11)

AYR

Table with race details: 1.45 KILMARNOCK HANDICAP CHASE (22,313; 3m 15yo) (2)

Ayr

Table with race details: 1.15 DALRYMPLE NOVICE HURDLE (2885; 2m) (11)

Ayr

Table with race details: 1.45 KILMARNOCK HANDICAP CHASE (22,313; 3m 15yo) (2)

Ayr

Table with race details: 1.45 KILMARNOCK HANDICAP CHASE (22,313; 3m 15yo) (2)

Legal advertisement text at the bottom right corner.

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Porsche helps Ibiza's promotion drive

A newcomer to Britain's roads in 1986 is the Spanish Seat. It is not the first Spanish-made car to be sold here in numbers.



It recently made people thought of Seat as the Spanish arm of the Italian giant Fiat.

Then five years ago, the partnership broke-up with bitter recriminations on both sides.

While a frantic search went on for a new partner Seat had to find new models to replace the ageing Fiat designs.

The Ibiza is a three-door hatchback of almost identical overall dimensions to Ford's Fiesta.

Styling follows typical Guigiaro lines in that it manages to look well balanced, attractive and slightly aggressive without being flashy.

But the big-selling attraction and the one Seat makes great play of in its promotion is the Porsche-designed engine and five-speed gearbox.

I drove the 1.2 GL recently and was disappointed by the moderate performance and slightly noisy engine.



Seat's new Ibiza (top) and the Isuzu Piazza Turbo

As a result the Piazza is very quick off the mark. It will accelerate to 60mph from a standing start in about 8.5 secs and top 100mph in a shade over 26 secs.

There is a surprising amount of room in the rear for a 2 plus 2 coupe. With the front seats in the middle position of their front and aft travel there was a good two inches of space between my knees and the seat in front.

My overall impression is of a beautiful looking car with exciting performance that is rather spoilt by over gliding. Make such goodies as air conditioning, cruise control and limited slip differential optional rather than standard fittings and the Piazza could probably be sold for about £10,000.

Behind the wheel, however, there are a number of disappointing aspects. The first hits you as soon as you take your seat.

Another shortcoming is the surprisingly coarse transmission. I found it nearly impossible to make smooth progress up through the gears when attempting to drive at a leisurely pace.

The two-litre, four-cylinder engine is a similar mixture of good and bad. On the plus side the engineers have made an excellent job of tackling the problem of turbo lag.

The turbo 'comes in' at surprisingly low revs, giving the Piazza the same flexible characteristics as a normally aspirated engine of at least three litres.

Vital statistics

Model: Isuzu Piazza Turbo Price: £11,950 Engine: 1994cc 4 cylinder turbo-charged Performance: 0 to 60mph 8.5 secs, maximum speed 130mph Official consumption: urban 31.7mpg, 56mph and 75mph 30mpg Length: 143.3ft Insurance: group 7 provisional

New Belmont

Vauxhall's new Belmont saloon will put the cat among the pigeons in more ways than one. It gives the General Motors company a rival for Ford's Orion in the biggest selling sector and that means its increasingly buoyant dealers offer a choice of hatchback or saloon in the supermini, lower medium and medium car sectors.

But it is also a much better looking car than the Astra, despite the latter being chosen 'Car of the Year' in 1985. In my view, and it is a widely held one, the Astra's rear end is one of the ugliest on the road today.

Against this the extra 9 inches of length on the booted Belmont gives it a much more attractive outline. It looks like a smaller version of the Vauxhall Carlton and they don't come more highly recommended than that.

Vauxhall executives hope to establish separate following for each car by stressing the sporty youthful image of the Astra compared with the more formal Belmont saloon.

My initial impression after driving 1.3 and 1.6 versions in the south of France recently is that the Belmont is a better riding car than the Astra. It is still inclined to be chippy on poor surfaces but the weight of even moderately heavy supermarket purchases in the boot made a noticeable improvement.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE Trade 01-837 2916 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

BMW First Front Approved Used BMWs. NEW BMW'S AVAILABLE FOR 1,2 or 3 YEAR CONTRACT. Includes list of models and prices.

DESIGNER CARS. ASTRA GLE £2,495. VOLVO 740 GLE's. Includes details of various car models and prices.

Motor Leasing. DE RICHE CONTRACTS NATIONAL CONTRACT HIRE. Includes details of leasing options and contact information.

DISCOUNTS NOT IMPORTS. Includes details of various car models and prices.

TAKE THE PROFIT. Mycar. Includes details of car leasing and financing options.

Motor Leasing. DE RICHE CONTRACTS. Includes details of leasing options and contact information.

PERSONAL IMPORTS. Save 25%. Most makes - all cars - in stock. Includes details of car importation services.

VW and Audi. UNIQUE VOLKSWAGEN GL Automatic. Includes details of VW and Audi models and prices.

Porsche. 944 82 Y. Black, manual, sun roof 50,000 miles. Includes details of Porsche models and prices.

Mercedes Coupe. 1971, Mercedes 230 CE, P48, 1600 cc. Includes details of Mercedes models and prices.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley. ROLLS-ROYCE 1972. Includes details of Rolls-Royce and Bentley models and prices.

Collectors cars. Mercedes Coupe. Includes details of collector car models and prices.

Jaguar and Daimler. XJS C 3.6 Cabriolet-Sept 85. Includes details of Jaguar and Daimler models and prices.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF H. S. JAMES & PARTNERS... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company...

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company...

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Mercedes Benz ALAN DAY MERCEDES-BENZ. COME TO OUR HUGE SHOWROOM WITH 50 MERCEDES-BENZ ON DISPLAY. Includes list of models and prices.

BRADSHAW & WEBB. SL 85B. Classic white. Grey hide. 5,000 m. Includes details of car models and prices.

MERCEDES 500SEC. Beautiful & immaculately maintained by author dealer. Includes details of car models and prices.

500 SE SEPTEMBER 84. 13,000 miles. This fine, metallic cream colour. Includes details of car models and prices.

230 CE MAY 85. 3,000 miles lady owner silver stereo rad/cass. ESR alloys elec. windows etc. Includes details of car models and prices.

Mercedes Benz 190. New Year Bargain! Brand new 1986. Includes details of car models and prices.

Saab SAAB 900 GLI. 8 door, July '84, immaculate condition. Includes details of car models and prices.

STUDIOS, APARTMENTS, VILLAS, CHATEAUX & ISLANDS IN THE SUN. TO GET MORE OF THEM INTO YOURS CALL: THE TIMES CLASSIFIED. Includes contact information.

Motors wanted. MERCEDES 200, 300D, 330E, 240D, 30-33. High mileage condition. Includes details of car models and prices.

RACING STABLE FOR SALE. WOULD SUIT PRIVATE OWNER. Includes details of racing stable for sale.

LIMITED COMPANIES FROM £99.50 inclusive. Same-Day Company Services Ltd. Includes details of company services.

LARGE RETAIL FURNITURE STORE FOR SALE. SINGMASTER OF 37,000 SQ FT. Includes details of furniture store for sale.

DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS PROBLEM? If you consider that you may be heading towards liquidation or if you just need general advice about income tax, etc. Includes details of business problem solutions.

FAR EAST FINANCIER. seeks to have associates such as stockbrokers, commodity brokers, estate agents, import & export, financial institutions, and any top companies seeking to establish themselves in the Far East. Includes details of financial services.

PALL MALL. No Premium. Pristine fur carpets, showrooms/offices all inclusive with phone & TV. Includes details of Pall Mall property.

Franchise Directory. Comprehensive, up to date listing of UK franchisees. Approx 200 entries. Includes details of franchise directory.

SURVEILLANCE MONITORING. and control surveillance equipment for both the amateur & professional user. Includes details of surveillance monitoring services.

SUPPLIERS WANTED & EQUIPMENT. Cosmetics, toiletries, household goods, stationary etc. Includes details of suppliers wanted.

WHOLESALE. THIS IS A CHANCE of a lifetime. Job. Includes details of wholesale opportunities.

SCS COMPUTERS. Both include integrated accounts software. Limited offer. Includes details of SCS computers.

COMMERICAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. GEORGE ST/BAKER ST, W1. Includes details of commercial and industrial property.

Legal Appointments are featured every TUESDAY. THE TIMES CLASSIFIED. Includes contact information.

Time for flowers. Interflora More than words can say.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS... ANNOUNCEMENTS... BIRTHS: BAYLEY, On December 21st to Jane...

DEATHS: MACKINLAY, On December 31st... MARRIAGES: BROOKS, On December 23rd...

MARRIAGES: HANLON & GANNON, On December 21st... DEATHS: JACOBSON, On December 26th...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSING notice & white King Charles... HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS: *SAVE LEFT*... *EXECUTIVE CLASS*

TRAILFINDERS: WORLDCHESTER COST FLIGHTS... BARGAIN AIR FARES

NEW LOW FARES WORLDWIDE: AFRICAN, SOUTH AMERICAN

SKYLORD TRAVEL LTD: 3 Deane Street, London W1

AIRFARE SPECIALISTS: Sydney, Auckland, London

BOMBAY: Non-stop 3 Weekly

UP, UP & AWAY: National Airways, Dubai, London

FLIGHT BUSTERS: 01-441 0122

COST CUTTERS: on flights to Hong Kong, Athens, Rome

LOW COST FLIGHTS: Most European destinations

CHEAP FARES worldwide: Pen Express, 01-439 2944

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS: LAST MINUTE WINTER SUN

LOWEST FARES WORLDWIDE: Frankfurt, Rome, Athens

DISCOUNTED FARES: AFRICAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN

WINTER SPORTS: SKI SUPER TRAVEL

FLAT SHARING: YOUNG MAN, 26 Public School

SKILLZ LTD: 01-370 6152

DUTY FREE SHOPPING: Lux goods, duty free

SKJ BLADON LINES: Save up to £100

SKI HOLIDAYS FROM £59: From Manchester & Gatwick

WANTED: SKI SKI SKI with John Morgan

FANTASTIC SKI BARGAINS: In Dec, Jan, Feb

FOR SALE: RESISTA CARPETS SALE NOW ON

RESISTA CARPETS: 265 New Kings Rd

BRIGHTS OF METTLED OFF: Williams' Tinsmiths Ltd

CATS: STAYLIT EXPRESS: We have beds for sale

DEPLEX Tweezer application: 1100 on new condition

FLAT SHARING: YOUNG MAN, 26 Public School

WANTED: SKI SKI SKI with John Morgan

FANTASTIC SKI BARGAINS: In Dec, Jan, Feb

WANTED: SKI SKI SKI with John Morgan

FANTASTIC SKI BARGAINS: In Dec, Jan, Feb

RENTALS

GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS: The Letting Agents

WE have an extensive range of top quality properties available to rent

SERVICE APARTMENTS: Chelsea, West End, restaurant, bar

THE LONG/SHORT LET specialists: 1/2, 3/4 bedrooms flats

SUPERIOR FLATS AND HOUSES: available and ready for immediate occupation

HOLIDAY FLATS SERVICES: Pick and choose from 1-3 star apartments

BROOK GREEN: W14 lovely home, 2 bed flat, avail 2 yrs

SW1: Lovely maisonette in Piccadilly, avail 2 yrs

F. W. GAPP (Management Services): South and West London areas

WHITESHAPPEL ART GALLERY: 107, 108, 109, 110, 111

ODEN MARBLE ARCH (723 2011): W14 Marble Arch

SCREEN AT THE ELECTRIC 229: 229, 230, 231, 232

ART GALLERIES: BARONIAN ART GALLERY

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SCREEN AT THE ELECTRIC 229: 229, 230, 231, 232

ART GALLERIES: BARONIAN ART GALLERY

also on page 23

LEGAL LA SECRETARY PA. A large advertisement for Legal La Secretary PA, featuring a woman in a professional suit and the text 'Legal La Crème every Tuesday'.

THE TIMES

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davle

BBC 1
9.00 Ceefax All.
9.50 Breakfast Time with Frank...

tv-am
6.15 Good Morning Britain
presented by Nick Owen and...

BBC 2
9.00 Ceefax.
9.40 Yabadabadoo! Joe Barbera...

CHANNEL 4
2.30 Snooker. Dickie Davies
introduces coverage of the...

Radio 4
On long wave 1 also VHF stereo.
5.55 Shopping. 6.00 News brief...

Radio 3
6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Sibelius's...

Radio 2
News on the hour (except 8.00 pm).
Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

WORLD SERVICE
8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News.
8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News...

OPERA & BALLET
COLUMBIAN 01 336 3161 CC 240 2228
The Royal Ballet. Ton 7.30...

THEATRES
GROBY CAROL 01 279 5433
Best Musical of the Year.
Me and My Girl.

ASTORIA THEATRE Box Off.
THE QUIETEST OF THE QUIET
Lennon.

LOTTERIES
COTTESLOE 01 928 2282 CC
Fortune CC 01 836 2228-9 CC 240
Fortune CC 01 836 2228-9 CC 240...

DES O'CONNOR
"Under the Star"
Cinderella with Paul Nicholas.

NATIONAL THEATRE
Company.
The Merchant of Venice.

PRINCE EDWARD. 741 457 8775
EVITA
From 14 May 1986.

ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE
The Merchant of Venice.
The Merry Wives of Windsor.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Coal productivity at new peak as consumption rises

By David Young, Energy Correspondent
Productivity in the coal mines is at higher levels than any recorded in the past five years...



The South African connection: clockwise from top left, Martyn Moxon, Kim Barnett, Chris Smith and Bill Athey, who are all objected to by the Bangladeshi Government.

President passes his screen test

Continued from page 1
One gentleman didn't want to see a Russian on his TV. He said if he wanted to see a Russian he would buy a Russian TV.

Journalists suspended by BBC

Continued from page 1
The NUJ is aware of the political pressure on the BBC in this matter and the union remains vigilant to ensure that the corporation's journalistic output...

Bangladesh stops tour by English cricketers

Continued from page 1
Assuming Sri Lanka are not prevailed upon to follow Bangladesh, the England team may now extend the time they spend there...

Contractor to take over RAF Fleet

The Marine Branch of the Royal Air Force is to be disbanded and its operations taken over by a private contractor.

Gaddafi's threats dismissed by West

Continued from page 1
Acts of terrorism and subversion, its military strength was relatively puny.

Letter from Bombay Everyone joins the money-go-round

The average Bombay-wallah has been secretly enjoying the spectacle of the very rich being brought to jail by the tax inspectors.

At the far end of the financial scale from the big tax evaders and business barons the poor pavement-dwellers also find themselves suffering the attentions of the authorities.

Today's events

New exhibitions
The Vaughan Bequest of drawings and watercolours by J.M.W. Turner, National Gallery, Scotland.

Food prices

The food supermarkets seem to have fewer special offers than usual, unlike the department stores where cut price sales of durable goods are in full swing.

Roads

The Midlands: M5: Roadworks should cease over the holiday period until Monday January 6.

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will move into W Britain. 6am to midnight

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio note.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,934

Grid and clues for Crossword Puzzle No 16,934. Includes clues like 'Paul wasn't sighted entering this capital', 'Such an uproar in the States', etc.

Top films

The top box-office films in London: 1 (1) Back to the Future, 2 (2) Santa Claus: The Movie, 3 (3) Legend.

Anniversaries

Births: Pietro Antonio Metastasio, poet, Rome, 1698. Robert Whitehead, inventor, Bolton, Lancashire, 1831.

The pound

Australia \$ 1.64 2.07, Argentina \$ 14.85 17.76, Belgium F 23.40 28.70.

Answers to the crossword puzzle. Includes answers like 'Danzon', 'Lionel Lincoln', 'Squad', etc.

Cheque cards

The following banks' cheque guarantee cards without a hologram guarantee are valid on January 1:

Snow reports

Table with columns: Depth, Conditions, Weather. Lists snow reports for various locations like Austria, St Anton, Solden, etc.

London

Yesterday: Lowest night temp. 5C (40F). Sun 7.13-4.45 pm to 5.12 pm. Manchester 4.32 pm to 7.45 pm.

Weather forecast



High tides

Table listing high tide times for various locations across Great Britain and Ireland, including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Belfast, etc.

Around Britain

Table showing weather forecasts for various towns and regions around Great Britain, including Scarborough, Newcastle, Liverpool, etc.

Abroad

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations including Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Vertical text on the right margin containing various notices, advertisements, and small text fragments.